

Home Safety Tips



Walls & Floors

- Are walls in good condition, with no peeling or cracking paint?
- Are rugs secured to floors or fitted with anti-slip pads underneath?



Doors & Windows

- Have you installed a finger pinch guard on doors?
- Have you removed the rubber tips from all door stops or installed one-piece door stops?
- Have you placed doorknob covers on doors so that your toddler won't be able to leave the house?
- Do all glass doors in the house contain decorative markers so they won't be mistaken for open doors?
- Do all sliding doors have childproof locks?
- Are there safety bars or window guards installed on upper-story windows?
- Are window blind cords tied with clothespins or specially designed cord clips?



Furniture

- Are bookshelves and other furniture secured with wall brackets so they can't be tipped over?
- Is there protective padding on any corners of coffee tables, furniture, and countertops that have sharp edges?
- Have you checked that all used or hand-me-down baby equipment hasn't been recalled?



Stairways

- Are there hardware-mounted safety gates at the top and bottom of every stairway?
- Are stairways clear of tripping hazards, such as loose carpeting or toys?
- Have you placed a guard on banisters and railings if your child can fit through the rails?



Heating & Cooling Elements

- Are all radiators and baseboard heaters covered with childproof screens if necessary?
- Have gas fireplaces been secured with a valve cover or key?
- Do all working fireplaces have a screen?
- Have any chimneys been cleaned recently?
- Are all electric space heaters at least 3 feet (91 centimeters) from beds, curtains, or anything flammable?



Emergency Equipment & Numbers

- Have you placed a list of emergency phone numbers near each phone in your home?
- Are there fire extinguishers installed on every floor and in the kitchen?
- Do you have an emergency ladder for the upper floors of your home?
- Are there smoke detectors on each floor of your home?
- Have smoke detectors been installed in the hallways between all bedrooms of your home?
- Have you tested all smoke detectors within the last month?
- Have you changed the batteries within the past 6 months?
- If you cook with or heat your home with natural gas or have an attached garage, have you considered installing a carbon monoxide detector in your home?



Electrical

- Are all unused outlets covered with safety plugs?
- Are all major electrical appliances grounded?
- Are all electrical cords in the house properly insulated (no broken or exposed wiring)?
- Have cords from lamps been bound with twist-ties or special spools designed to hide extra cord?
- Have cord holders been used to keep longer cords fastened against walls?
- Have you checked for and removed other potential electrical fire hazards, such as overloaded electrical sockets and electrical wires running under carpets?
- Are televisions, computers, and stereo equipment positioned against walls?
- Is the VCR locked to prevent your child from putting objects or a hand inside the tape slot?



Kitchen

- Are knives, forks, scissors, and other sharp tools in a drawer with a childproof latch?
- Have you installed a dishwasher lock so your child can't reach breakable dishes, knives, and other dangerous objects?
- Have you installed a stove lock?
- Have knob protectors been placed on the stove knobs?
- Are chairs and step stools positioned away from the stove?
- Are all pot handles on the stove turned inward or placed on back burners where your child can't reach them?
- Are glass objects and appliances with sharp blades stored out of reach?
- Is the garbage can behind a cabinet door with a childproof latch?
- Are all appliances unplugged when not in use, with cords out of reach?
- Are all vitamin, aspirin, or medicine bottles stored in a high cabinet far from reach?
- Are matches and lighters stored in a locked cabinet?
- Is the cabinet under the sink free of cleaning supplies, bug sprays, dishwasher detergent, and dishwashing liquids?
- Are any bottles containing alcohol stored out of reach?
- Are all plastic garbage bags and sandwich bags out of reach?
- Are any cords or wires from wall telephones out of reach?
- Are refrigerator magnets and other small objects out of reach?
- Are child-proof latches installed on all cabinet doors?



Child's Room/Bedroom

- Does your baby's changing table have a safety belt?
- Are all painted cribs, bassinets, and high chairs made after 1978?
- Are crib slats less than 2 3/8 inches (6 centimeters) apart?
- Is the crib's headboard and footboard free of large cut-outs?
- Is the crib mattress firm and flat? Does it fit snugly in the crib?
- Are the side rails up on the crib?
- Is the crib free from soft pillows, large stuffed animals, and soft bedding?
- Have any strings or ribbons been clipped off hanging mobiles and crib toys?
- Are strings on crib bumpers 6 inches (15 centimeters) or shorter?
- Are window blind and curtain cords tied with clothespins or specially designed cord clips?
- Are dressers secured to walls with drawers closed?
- Do the lids on toy chests or toy storage containers have a lid support to keep them from slamming shut? Are all toy chests non-locking?
- Has a window guard been placed on any window that isn't an emergency exit?
- Are any night-lights in the room not touching any fabric like bedspreads or curtains?
- Does your child wear flame-retardant sleepwear?
- Have you removed all drawstrings from your child's clothing?



Adult's Bedroom

- Are all medication bottles, coins, scissors, and any other small or sharp objects, out of reach?
- Are window blind and curtain cords tied with clothespins or specially designed cord clips?



Bathroom

- Is the thermostat on the hot water heater set below 120 degrees Fahrenheit (49 degrees Celsius)?
- Are razor blades, nail scissors, and other sharp tools stored in a locked cabinet?
- Are childproof latches (installed on all drawers)?
- Do the outlets have grounded circuit breakers?
- Are toilets always left closed? Is there a toilet-lid lock on the toilet?
- Are all hair dryers, curling irons, and electric razors unplugged when not in use?
- Are there nonskid strips on the bottoms of bathtubs?
- Are there nonslip pads under loose rugs to hold them securely to the floor?
- Are all prescription and nonprescription medications, cosmetics, and cleaners stored in a locked cabinet?
- Are bottles of mouthwash, perfumes, hair dyes, hair sprays, nail and shoe polishes, and nail polish removers stored in a locked cabinet?



Garage & Laundry Area

- Are all tools and supplies used for gardening, automotive, and lawn care stored in a locked container?
- Are all hazardous automotive and gardening products in a locked area?
- Are recycling containers out of reach?
- Are all bleaches, detergents, and any other cleaning products out of reach?
- Are laundry chutes locked with child-proof locks?



Outdoors/Backyard/Pool

- Are all walkways and outdoor stairways well-lighted?
- Are all walkways clear of toys, objects, or anything blocking a clear path?
- Are all sidewalks and outdoor stairways clear of concrete cracks or missing pieces?
- Are all garbage cans securely covered?
- Are all swing-set parts free from rust, splinters, and sharp edges?
- Are all parts on swing sets or other outdoor equipment securely fastened?
- Is the surface beneath the swing set soft enough (cushioned with material such as sand, mulch, wood chips, or approved rubber surfacing mats) to absorb the shock of falls?
- Are all outdoor toys put away in a secure, dry place when not in use?
- Is there climb-proof fencing at least 4 feet (1.2 meters) high on all sides of the pool? Does the fence have a self-closing gate with a childproof lock?
- Have all ladders been removed from an above-ground pool when not in use?



Other Safety Issues

- Have you removed any potentially poisonous houseplants?
- Have you instituted a no-smoking rule in your home to protect your child from environmental tobacco smoke?
- Have you considered possible health risks from – and if indicated, tested for – lead, radon, asbestos, mercury, mold, and carbon monoxide?
- If there are guns in the home, have they been placed in a locked cabinet with the key hidden and the ammunition locked separately?
- Do you always supervise your child around pets, especially dogs?