

Home Safety Checklist



This safety checklist is designed to be an easy, room-by-room survey that will quickly point out possible dangers. The best way to discover potential dangers in your home is to get down to your child's eye level.

Use this activity to help you look for additional hazards. If you cannot check off items on the following checklist, you may have found a dangerous situation that you should change.

Kitchen

- Are there safety latches on cabinet doors?
- Are all prescription and over-the-counter medicines out of your child's reach?
- Do you use safety gates to keep your child out of the kitchen while you are cooking?
- Are you using the back burners on the stove and turning the handles towards the back of the stove?

❖ **Are cleaning supplies stored:**

- in locked cabinets out of your child's reach in their original containers?

Bathroom

- Is there a doorknob cover or latch on the bathroom door?

❖ **Are medicines and cleaning supplies stored:**

- in a locked cabinet

❖ **Is there a:**

- latch on the toilet seat
- non-skid mat in the bathtub
- faucet cover

Children's Bedroom

❖ **Check your crib for:**

- bars that are less than 2 3/8 inches apart (no wider than a soda can held upright)
- a mattress that fits snugly against the frame (no more than two finger-widths between bars and mattress)
- no blankets, pillows, stuffed toys, bumper pads, or loose bedding or plastic in the crib

General living areas

- Are small rugs and runners slip-resistant?
- Have you secured shelves and chests of drawers to the wall with L-Brackets or furniture straps?
- Are TVs placed on built-in shelves or on heavy tables that cannot be pulled over?
- Anchor TV's and heavy furniture so that it cannot tip over.
- Use corner protectors for sharp edges and outlet covers for electrical outlets.
- Are guns stored unloaded in locked cases and drawers and the ammunition stored separately?

❖ **Windows**

- Do windows have safety locks (except windows that are on your escape route)?
- Do all window blind cords have safety tassels?
- Have you pulled all furniture away from windows?



❖ **Stairs**

- Are there safety gates at the top and bottom of all stairways? Look at the label to make sure they are recommended for stairway use.
- Is there firm footing on the stairs (no loose carpeting or uneven steps)?
- Are the stairs well-lit?

❖ **Play areas**

- Are the toys age-appropriate for your child?

❖ **Are these dangerous items out of reach?**

- poisonous plants
- cigarettes
- loose change and other small items that could be a choking hazard

❖ **Are these emergency numbers posted in your home:**

- your child's doctor
- poison help hotline (1-800-222-1222)
- emergency (911)
- all other important numbers (for babysitters)

Fire & Electricity

- Is there at least one working smoke detector on each floor and one in the hallway by the bedrooms? Consider using a 10-year smoke alarm and a carbon monoxide alarm.
- Do the smoke detectors work? (Check them monthly)
- Have you changed the smoke detector batteries recently? (They should be changed once a year.)
- Do you have a home fire escape plan with two exit routes?

❖ **Electric outlets and fixtures:**

- all electric switches and outlets have cover plates
- all unused outlets have no-shock, childproof covers

❖ **Are electric cords:**

- out of your child's reach and out of traffic flow
- neither frayed nor cracked
- neither under rugs nor stapled to baseboards
- appropriate size and wattage

❖ **Does every light fixture:**

- have a light bulb of appropriate size and wattage

Outdoor

- Are childproof latches or doorknob covers on doors to the garage and outside?
- Do power tools have guards in place and are they unplugged when not in use?

❖ **If you have a swimming pool or spa, does it have:**

- fences on all four sides that are at least six feet high
- gates that are self-latching and self-closing
- an anti-entrapment drain cover

Remember

- ❖ anything that fits in a child's mouth will probably end up there
- ❖ look for climbing opportunities and things that can be pulled down from up above
- ❖ watch for sharp corners, protrusions, and objects a child might fall on
- ❖ home safety is your responsibility!

To make my home safe, I need to fix these items:

