

Home Safety Checklist

This guide provides information on how to keep every room of your home safe for your family and guests.

Preventing slips and falls:

Anyone can be injured by a trip and a fall in the home or yard, prevent them by:

- Keeping walkways clear.
- Keeping electrical cords from crossing walkways or running under rugs.
- Make sure throw rugs can't slip/slide.

Medication and Household Product Safety:

Ingestions means someone swallows something that shouldn't be swallowed:

- Keep all medications, cleaners, chemicals and batteries up and out of reach of children or locked away.
- Use cabinet locks if any of these items are kept in lower cabinets.
- Keep the POISON CONTROL number 1-800-222-1222 in your cell phone and posted on the refrigerator in your home.
- See poison.org or more information.

Water Safety: Drowning prevention:

- Empty cleaning buckets, wading pools and other containers that hold water.
- Always have fences at least five feet high around pools, including above ground pools.
- Always supervise kids in and around water.
- See safekids.org/watersafety

Sleep Safety:

- Babies should sleep on their backs for the first 12 months of life.
- Room share with your baby for the first 6-12 months of life.
- Don't co-sleep.
- Use a firm mattress with a fitted crib sheet, and nothing else in the sleep space (including bumpers, pillows and soft or loose bedding).
- Sleep positioners such as wedges should not be used in the sleep space.

Window Safety: Open windows attract young curious children:

- Allow windows to be open no more than four inches by using window locks, guards or stops to prevent falls.
- Keep furniture away from the second story and higher windows to prevent climbing.
- See stopat4.com for more great tips!

Stair Safety:

- Child gates placed to the top and bottom of stairs can prevent falls.
- Install lights and light switches on walls near the top and bottom of the stairs.

Burn Safety:

- Do not hold a child while cooking at the stove.
- Keep all pots on back burners with handles faced away from the edge.
- Keep hot liquids away from the edges of the counters.
- Don't leave children alone in rooms with space heaters.
- Water heater temperature should be set to 120 degrees or less to prevent scalding.

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Fire/Carbon Monoxide Safety:

- Have a fire escape plan with your family with at least two exit routes and practice regularly.
- Have smoke and carbon monoxide detectors on every level of the house, test alarms monthly and change batteries at least annually.
- Store flammable liquids away from heat sources.
- Keep a fire extinguisher on every floor.
- Keep space heaters away from furniture, beds and curtains.

Furniture and Television Safety:

- Use anti-tip straps, braces, or brackets to help prevent furniture from falling over if a child is climbing on it.
- Mount flat screen televisions to the wall to prevent them from tipping over.

Electrical Safety:

- Use electrical outlet covers with mobile infant and toddlers in the home.
- Check for frayed wires.
- Keep wires out of reach of small children.
- Make sure there are no cords under rugs or across doorways.

Choking/Strangulation Safety:

- Keep small objects out of reach and sight of children. Look for and remove all small objects at eye level. Children can choke on objects smaller than a toilet paper roll.
- Keep cords and strings out of the reach of children, especially window blind cords and strings.

Driveway Safety:

- Ensure kids are not near the car when it is moving, especially when it is backing up.
- Have appropriate de-icing supplies or traction items (sand or salt) available for icy weather.

Gun Safety:

- Store guns unloaded in a locked gun safe. Keep a gun lock on the firearm and store the ammunition separately.

For more information on home safety, visit [safekids.org](https://www.safekids.org)