

Childproofing Your Home

12 SAFETY DEVICES TO PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN

Each year, children are injured by hazards in and around the home. The good news is that the risk of injury can be reduced or prevented by using child-safety devices and reminding older children in the house to re-secure safety devices after disabling them.

Most of these safety devices are easy to find and are relatively inexpensive. You can buy them at hardware stores, baby equipment shops, supermarkets, drug stores, home improvement stores, on the Internet and through mail order catalogs. Safety devices should be sturdy enough to hinder access and yet easy for you to use.

To be effective, they must be properly installed. Follow installation instructions carefully. Remember, too, that no device is completely childproof; determined youngsters have been known to overcome or disable them.

Here are some child safety devices that can help reduce injuries to young children. The red numbers correspond to those on the image following the text.

Use **Safety Latches and Locks 1** for cabinets and drawers in kitchens, bathrooms, and other areas to help prevent poisonings and other injuries. Safety latches and locks on cabinets and drawers can help prevent children from gaining access to medicines, household cleaners, matches, or cigarette lighters, as well as knives and other sharp objects.

Even products with child-resistant packaging should be locked away and kept out of reach. This packaging is not childproof. Look for safety latches and locks that adults can easily install and use, but are sturdy enough to withstand pulls and tugs from children.



Use **Safety Gates 2** to help prevent falls down stairs and to keep children from entering rooms and other areas with possible dangers.

Look for safety gates that children cannot dislodge easily, but that adults can open and close without difficulty. For the top of stairs, only use gates that screw to the wall.

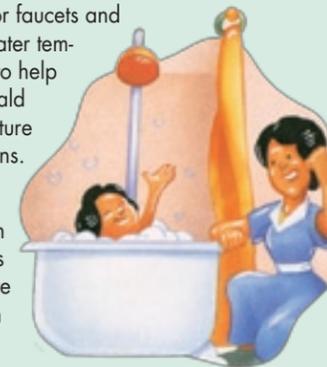
Use safety gates that meet current safety standards. Replace older safety gates that have "V" shapes that are large enough to entrap a child's head and neck.

Use **Door Knob Covers and Door Locks 3** to help prevent children from entering rooms and other areas with possible dangers. Door knob covers and door locks can help keep children away from places with hazards.

Be sure the door knob cover is sturdy, and allows a door to be opened quickly by an adult in case of emergency.

Use **Anti-Scald Devices 4** for faucets and shower heads and set your water heater temperature to 120 degrees Fahrenheit to help prevent burns from hot water. Anti-scald devices for regulating water temperature can help reduce the likelihood of burns.

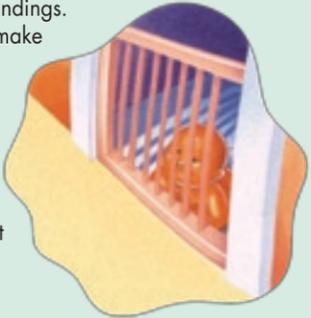
Use **Smoke Alarms 5** on every level of your home, inside each bedroom, and outside sleeping areas to alert you to fires. Smoke alarms are essential safety devices for protection against fire deaths and injuries.



Check smoke alarms once a month to make sure they're working. Change batteries at least once a year or consider using 10-year batteries for alarms.

Use **Window Guards and Safety Netting 6** to help prevent falls from windows, balconies, decks, and landings.

Check these safety devices frequently to make sure they are secure and properly installed and maintained. Limit window openings to four inches or less, including the space between the window guard bars. If you have window guards, be sure at least one window in each room can be easily used for escape in a fire. Window screens are not effective for preventing children from falling out of windows.



Use **Corner and Edge Bumpers 7** to help prevent injuries from falls against sharp edges of furniture and fireplaces. Be sure to look for bumpers that stay securely on furniture or hearth edges.

Use **Outlet Covers and Outlet Plates 8** to help prevent electrocution. Outlet covers and outlet plates can help protect children from electrical shock and possible electrocution.

Be sure outlet protectors cannot be easily removed by children and are large enough so that children cannot choke on them. If you are replacing receptacles, use a tamper-resistant type.

Use a **Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarm 9** to help prevent CO poisoning. All consumers should install CO alarms near sleeping areas in their homes. Change batteries at least once a year.

Use a **Tassel on Each Separate Window Blind Cord and Inner Cord Stops on Mini Blinds 10** to help prevent strangulation.

For older mini blinds, cut the cord loop, remove the buckle, put tassels on each cord and put inner cord stops on the cords two inches from the headrail. Be sure that older vertical blinds and drapery cords have tension or tie-down devices to hold the cords tight. When buying new mini blinds, verticals, and draperies, ask for safety features to prevent child strangulation, and consider buying cordless products.

You can get window blind cord safety information and free tassels by calling 800-506-4636 or visiting www.windowcoverings.org.

Use **Anchors to Avoid Furniture and Appliance Tip-Overs 11**. Furniture, TVs and ranges can tip over and crush young children. Deaths and injuries occur when children climb onto, fall against or pull themselves up on television stands, shelves, bookcases, dressers, desks, chests and ranges. For added security, anchor these products to the floor or attach them to a wall. Free standing ranges and stoves should be installed with anti-tip brackets.

Use **Layers of Protection with Pools and Spas 12**. A barrier completely surrounding the pool or spa including a 4-foot tall fence with self-closing, self-latching gates is essential. If the house serves as a side of the barrier, doors heading to the pool should have an alarm or the pool should have a power safety cover. Pool alarms can serve as an additional layer of protection.

Sliding glass doors, with locks that must be re-secured after each use, are not an effective barrier to pools.

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THIS BROCHURE BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814

Web site: www.cpsc.gov

Toll-free hotline: 1-800-638-2772

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is a federal agency that helps keep families and children safe in and around their homes.

Go to www.cpsc.gov to check for recalled products and sign up for automatic e-mail recall notifications.

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12 SAFETY DEVICES TO PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN

Child safety devices are an important aid to parental supervision. Here are 12 child safety devices that will help keep your home—and children—safer.

Use **SAFETY LATCHES and LOCKS 1** for cabinets and drawers in kitchens, bathrooms, and other areas to help prevent poisonings and other injuries.

Use **SAFETY GATES 2** to help prevent falls down stairs and to keep children from entering rooms and other areas with possible dangers.

Use **DOOR KNOB COVERS and DOOR LOCKS 3** to help prevent children from entering rooms and other areas with possible dangers.

Use **ANTI-SCALD DEVICES FOR FAUCETS and SHOWER HEADS 4** and set your water heater temperature to 120 degrees Fahrenheit to help prevent burns from hot water.

Use **SMOKE ALARMS 5** on every level of your home, inside each bedroom and outside sleeping areas to alert you to fires.

Use **WINDOW GUARDS and SAFETY NETTING 6** to help prevent falls from windows, balconies, decks, and landings.

Use **CORNER and EDGE BUMPERS 7** to help prevent injuries from falls against sharp edges of furniture and fireplaces.

Use **OUTLET COVERS and OUTLET PLATES 8** to help prevent electrocution.

Use a **CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) ALARM 9** near sleeping areas to help prevent CO poisoning.

Use a **TASSEL ON EACH SEPARATE WINDOW BLIND CORD AND INNER CORD STOPS ON MINI BLINDS 10** to help prevent strangulation.

Use **ANCHORS TO AVOID FURNITURE AND APPLIANCE TIP-OVERS 11**.

Use **LAYERS OF PROTECTION WITH POOLS AND SPAS 12**.

