

Safety Checklist



- 1. **Make sure the baby's crib meets current safety standards.** You can see the current recommendations at the Consumer Product Safety Commission website. Just log on to www.cpsc.gov.
- 2. **Never place a crib near a window.**
- 3. **Outfit window blind cords with safety tassels** or consider using cordless window coverings to reduce the risk of strangulation.
- 4. **Install smoke alarms** outside every bedroom and on every floor; place a carbon monoxide detector in every sleeping area of your home.
- 5. **Test your home for lead-based paint** if it was built before 1978. If it tests positive, have the paint completely removed or covered with an approved sealant. Consult your local building inspection department for additional information.
- 6. **Get down on your hands and knees** to get a child's-eye view of your home. Think about what might be tempting to a toddler about what's within reach.
- 7. **Place soft bumpers on corners and sharp edges** to help prevent injuries from falls around furniture or the fireplace.
- 8. **Move furniture away from windows.** Help prevent toddlers from reaching window covering cords or climbing onto a window ledge or sill from nearby furniture.
- 9. **Install toilet locks.** Because their weight is concentrated in the top of their bodies, it's easy for toddlers to topple in.
- 10. **Cover unused electrical outlets.**
- 11. **Keep floors clear** of buttons, marbles, beads, coins, and other small items.
- 12. **Place safety gates** at the top and bottom of every staircase.
- 13. **Install window guards.** Screens aren't strong enough to stop a fall; they are meant to keep insects out, not to keep children in. Look for quick-release features for easy emergency exits.
- 14. **Lock up household cleaners, medications, and vitamins.** Children often mistake medicines for candy; request child-resistant packaging.
- 15. **Use doorstops and door holders** to prevent injuries to little fingers.
- 16. **Secure area rugs** with foam backing, double-sided tape, or a rubber pad to prevent your child from slipping when running through the house.
- 17. **Keep windows closed when young children are present.** If you must open windows for ventilation, install locks that limit how far they can be opened.
- 18. **Plant shrubs or grass beneath windows.** The plantings will help to cushion a fall if, in spite of your best efforts, your child tumbles out a window.
- 19. **Put matches and lighters out of your child's reach.** Children are fascinated by fire.
- 20. **Teach your child to clearly recite your address and phone number.** Children as young as three should be taught how to dial 911 in an emergency.
- 21. **Develop a fire-escape plan** that includes two ways out of each room in the house — a door and a window. Practice the plan at least twice a year. Designate an outside meeting place where all members of the household should gather after they've exited in an emergency.
- 22. **Keep window covering cords secured** out of reach with cord cleats. Make sure to properly install cordloop tensioner devices provided on many window coverings. Or outfit windows with cordless window covering products.
- 23. **Post emergency numbers** by all telephones in your home. Include numbers for your local poison control center, pediatrician, police and fire departments and a trusted neighbor.