

Household Safety Checklist

An accident or injury can occur in any part of your home. Use this checklist to make a safety check of your home. You should answer "Yes" to all of these questions. (To use this checklist please print it by clicking the printer icon on your browser).

Kitchen:

- Are pot handles turned to the back of the stove?
- Is the table free of tablecloths and large place mats?
- Are knives, forks, scissors, and other sharp tools in a drawer with a safety latch?
- Are glass objects and appliances with sharp blades stored in a high cabinet?
- Are all appliances unplugged when not in use, with cord far from reach?
- Are all vitamin, aspirin, or medicine bottles stored in a cabinet far from reach?
- Is the cabinet under the sink free from cleaning supplies, dishwasher detergent, and dishwashing liquids?
- Are all bottles of alcohol in a high cabinet far from reach?
- Are all garbage bags and sandwich-style baggies far from reach?
- Are long telephone cords far from the floor?

Bathroom:

- Is the thermostat on the hot water heater set to 120 degrees F or lower?
- Are razors, blades, nail scissors, and other sharp tools stored in a locked cabinet?
- Is there a toilet-lid locking device on the toilet?
- Are all hair dryers, curling irons, and electric razors unplugged when not in use?
- Are there nonskid strips on the bottom of the bathtub?
- Are there specially designed pads under loose rugs to hold them securely to the floor?
- Are all prescription and non-prescription medications stored in a locked cabinet far from reach?
- Are bottles of mouthwash, perfumes, hair dyes, hair sprays, nail and shoe polish, and nail removers far from reach?

Child's Room

- Are all painted cribs, bassinets, and high chairs made after 1978?
- Have strings or ribbons been clipped off hanging mobiles and crib toys?
- Are strings on crib bumpers six inches long or shorter?
- Are crib slats no more than 2 3/8 inches apart?

- Is the crib's headboard or footboard free of large cut-outs?
- Does the crib mattress fit snugly in the crib?
- Are side rails up on the crib?
- Is the crib free from soft pillows, large stuffed animals, and soft bedding?
- Are window blind cords tied up with clothespins or specially designed cord clips?

Around the House:

- Are all unused outlets covered with safety caps?
- Are televisions and stereo equipment positioned against the wall?
- Have excess cords from lamps been bound with twist-ties or special spools designed to hide extra cords?
- Are all matches and lighters picked up and put out of the reach of children?
- Do you have smoke detectors and have you tested them in the last month?
- Have you made an evacuation plan for you and your family in case of fire?
- Is the Emergency number posted on or near your phone?
- Do you have a fire extinguisher and do you know how to use it?
- Are window blind cords tied up with clothespins or specially designed cord clips?
- Are there hardware-mounted safety gates at the top and bottom of every stairway?
- Are stairways clear of tripping hazards?
- Are there specially designed pads under loose rugs to hold them securely to floors?
- Have you removed any potentially poisonous houseplants?

Garage:

- Are all tools used for gardening, automotive, and lawn care stored in a locked container
- Are all hazardous automotive and gardening products in a securely locked area?

Backyard/Pool:

- Are all swing-set parts free from rust?
- Are all parts on swing sets or other outdoor equipment tightly fastened and secure?
- Is the surface beneath the swing set soft to absorb the shock of falls?
- Is there climb-proof fencing at least four feet high on all sides of the pool, and does the fence have a self-closing self-latching gate with a lock that is out of reach of children?
- Do you have rescue safety equipment around the pool area (ring, shepherds hook)
- Do you have a portable phone near by?
- Have all the ladders been removed from an above-ground pool?