



Children's Health  
Education Center™

A member of Children's Hospital and Health System.



To learn more about  
keeping your family safe,  
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# Home Safety

*Nearly two-thirds of all injuries among children under age 3 requiring emergency department visits occur in the home.*

Dangers for kids exist in every home, often where we least expect them. Young children who are crawling or learning to walk and are naturally curious are especially at risk. Children can suffer painful burns from hot foods or water, or be poisoned by common medicines or cleaning supplies. They can drown in pools, toilets and even buckets. Fortunately, there are two simple ways to keep your child safe in the home.

**Childproof your home.** Explore your home at your child's level—by getting down on your hands and knees. Go through every room, asking yourself what looks tempting and what is within reach. Also, check carpets for small items like pins or coins that kids can choke on.

**Supervise your child(ren).** Understand that childproofing can never be 100 percent effective. That's why it's so important to supervise your children at all times, especially in the kitchen and bathroom.

## Protect your child around the house

- **Keep beds and cribs away from windows.** Children can crawl out of windows that are open as little as four inches.
- **Keep furniture away from draperies.** Children can strangle in drapery or blind cords. Consider buying cordless window coverings or use roll-up devices to secure cords.
- **Check for fire hazards.** Keep curtains, paper and furniture at least three feet from heat sources. Keep space heaters out of children's reach. Watch for frayed wires. Never run electrical cords under rugs.
- **Cover all unused electrical outlets.**
- **Keep houseplants out of children's reach.**
- **Keep firearms unloaded, locked and stored out of reach.** Secure ammunition in a separate, locked location.
- **Tack down rugs.** Prevent falls from non-slip resistant rugs.

## Protect your child with safety devices

- **Smoke alarms.** Make sure your home has a smoke alarm in every sleeping area and on every level. Test them monthly.
- **Carbon monoxide detectors.** Exposure to even low levels of this poisonous gas can be fatal to a small child. Install carbon monoxide detectors in every sleeping area and test them monthly.
- **Safety gates.** Stair falls tend to result in severe injuries. Use safety gates at the top and bottom of stairs to keep infants and toddlers out of harm's way.
- **Small parts tester.** Found at your local toy or baby store, this tester can indicate if items are a choking hazard for children younger than 3.
- **Window guards and window stops.** Install guards or stops on all windows that are not emergency exits. Both can be purchased at local hardware stores.

## Protect your child in the kitchen

- **Keep children away from the kitchen while cooking.** Be especially aware when using the microwave and stove.
- **Keep hot foods and liquids away from young children.** Each year, thousands of children are scalded—many when hot foods are spilled on them.
- **Keep the Wisconsin Poison Center number (1-800-222-1222) by the phone.** Be sure to keep other important numbers handy, too.
- **Keep glassware, knives, scissors, appliance cords, placemats and tablecloths out of reach.** If your child is visiting someone else's home, ensure dangerous items are out of reach.
- **Lock up cleaning supplies, pet supplies, alcoholic beverages, medicines and vitamins.** Prevent poisoning by keeping these in original, child-resistant containers out of reach.
- **Use the back burners on the stove.** Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove, so kids can't reach them.

## Protect your child in the bathroom

- **Set your hot water heater no hotter than 120 degrees Fahrenheit.** It takes just three seconds for a child to sustain a third degree burn from 140 degree water. If you rent, ask your landlord.
- **Test bath water before children enter the tub.** It should be no more than 100 degrees Fahrenheit.
- **Lock medicine cabinets.** Even items that seem harmless, like mouthwash and vitamins, can harm a young child. Remember, child-resistant containers are a good start, but they will not prevent all kids from opening containers.
- **Keep toilet lids closed and use toilet locks.** When top-heavy babies who are still learning to walk lean into a toilet bowl, they may lose their balance, fall forward and drown. It is best to close and latch the bathroom door when not in use.
- **Remove sharp tools and hot appliances.** Razors, scissors, curling irons and blow dryers are better kept in an adult's bedroom, unplugged and locked out of children's reach.



### In the kitchen

Danger

Solution

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### In the bathroom

Danger

Solution

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### In the garage

Danger

Solution

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### In the bedrooms

Danger

Solution

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### Smoke detectors

Check date

New battery date

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