



Home Safety: Childproofing Your Home

Facts about Home Injuries

- ◆ More than 4.5 million children are injured in the home each year.
- ◆ A few simple precautions in the home can help save kids lives.

Childproofing

- * There is not a substitute for active supervision, but childproofing your home provides extra protection and peace of mind.
- * Childproofing the home is not just a one-time project – it's an ongoing process. As your children grow, they can face new kinds of hazards around the home.
- ✓ Inspect your home for childproofing at least once per year.
- * Explore your home at your child's level to look for hazards.
- ✓ If you have a crawling baby, get down on your hands and knees and see what you can reach and what you can find on the floor.
- ✓ If you have a toddler, look for potential hazards at an adult's waste level

Childproofing Tips

- * Store any potentially harmful substances, such as medicines, vitamins, household cleaners and cosmetics, out of children's reach.
- * Put a child-resistant lock on all low cabinets.
- * Insert plastic electrical outlet covers into all exposed electrical outlets.
- * If you have toddlers, use safety gates at the top and bottom of stairways.
- * Keep the floors and furniture clean and free of small objects that can get stuck in a child's airway.
- * Test your smoke alarms every month.
- * Inform your baby sitter of the safety precautions you've taken in your home; point out baby gates, child-resistant locks, smoke alarms, electrical outlet covers, toilet locks, etc.

Childproofing devices such as electrical outlet covers, cabinet latches and safety gates can be purchased at hardware stores, baby supply stores and through baby supply and safety supply catalogues.