



# Home Safety Checklist



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## Home Environment

YES NO

- Is there an electrical safety switch to prevent electric shock?
- Are electrical appliances, plugs and cords in good condition?
- Are safety plugs fitted in unused power points?
- Is the hot water delivery temperature for your home at a maximum of 50C?
- Have you removed any potentially poisonous house plants?
- Are working smoke alarms installed outside sleeping areas?
- Do you change the battery in your smoke alarm every year at the end of daylight saving?
- Do you have a home fire escape plan which you practice regularly?
- Have long curtain or blind cords been secured with a safety device, such as cleats or tension devices?
- Are heaters and fireplaces guarded, and candles not left unattended?
- Are there barriers or gates on steps, stairs and changes in floor levels to prevent falls?
- Are railings free of footholds that children could climb?
- Is all top heavy furniture such as bookcases, tall boy drawers, televisions and TV cabinets secured to the wall to prevent them from tipping over if climbed on?
- Is your swimming pool or spa fully enclosed by a safety fence with a fully functioning self-closing, self-latching gate?
- Is the ground around the house and gutters kept clear of material that burns?
- Are all balcony entry points locked and are the rail heights at least 1.2m high?
- Are windows locked and shielded with firm screens, no footholds or nearby furniture to climb?
- Are button batteries and items that contain button batteries secure and kept out of reach of children?

## Bathroom

YES NO

- Does the bath and shower have a non-slip surface and handrails affixed?
- Are sharp objects, (eg razors), kept in a locked cupboard out of reach of children?
- Are hairdryers and electric razors unplugged when not in use?
- Are medicines in a lockable cupboard 'Locked up and Away'?
- Is there a child resistant lock on all toilet and bathroom doors?
- Is the bath water temperature always "tested" before putting the child in? (start with cold, add hot, then finish with cold – recommended temp 38C)
- Are shampoos, soaps and cosmetics out of reach of children?
- Are all water containing devices (such as baths, buckets) emptied immediately after use?

## Kitchen

YES NO

- Are electrical appliances (e.g. kettles, toasters and microwaves) positioned out of children's reach? Do your electrical appliances have short cords that do not dangle over the bench?
- Is the kettle out of children's reach and emptied after each use?
- Is the microwave positioned out of reach of children?
- Do you use the back hot plates and turn pot handles around to prevent pots being pulled from the stove?
- Are lighters, matches, knives and other dangerous objects such as cleaning products stored in a place where a child cannot reach them?
- Are plastic bags out of reach or tied in the middle?
- Do you have locks on cupboard doors and pantries?
- Does the highchair have a five point harness and is it stable?
- Do you have a fire extinguisher and fire blanket stored within easy reach but away from the cooking area? (The fire services recommend that you only use a fire extinguisher or fire blanket if you feel physically and mentally able to use this equipment safely.)
- Is there a barrier across the doorway to prevent your child access to the kitchen?
- Are curtains away from the stove?

**The home is the most common location where children are injured**



## Garden shed/outdoors YES NO

- Are pesticides, paints, chemicals and other poisons stored in tightly covered, labelled, original containers out of reach of children 'Locked Up and Away?'
- Are all garden tools locked away?
- Is the garden free of poisonous plants?
- Can the shed or garage be locked?
- Is the area free of drowning hazards? Eg ponds, pet water bowls, buckets.
- Is your swimming pool or spa surrounded by a safety barrier?
- Is the play area separated from the driveway?
- Is the play equipment stable and in good condition? (regular maintenance checks required)
- Is there a soft surface under play equipment over 500mm high to cushion falls?
- Are pathways clear to prevent tripping?
- Are branches pruned above eye level to avoid eye injury?
- Are all pets separated from children, except when supervised?
- Are garden statues and birdbaths cemented in to prevent a crushing hazard?
- Are electrical equipment, power points and light switches protected from the weather?
- Are all flammable liquids stored safely (as per their directions) and away from ignition sources?
- Do you have a fence or gate that restricts access to your driveway and onto the street?
- Is the sandpit covered when not in use?

## Laundry YES NO

- Are cleaning products, bleaches and detergents stored out of reach in a child resistant cupboard 'Locked Up and Away?'
- Is the nappy bucket used with a lid on and kept out of reach of children?
- Are sinks and washing machines empty when not in use?
- Do appliances with lids switch off when machine is opened? Are curtains away from the stove?
- Do you clean the lint filter of your dryer before every use?
- Is the floor kept dry and non-slippery?

## Living Areas YES NO

- Are sharp edges on tables and furniture covered?
- Are blind and curtain cords looped up high or shortened and out of reach?
- Are glass doors protected by safety film, colourful stickers or made of safety glass?
- Is alcohol stored in a child resistant cupboard?
- Are toys stored in an area to allow free passage after use?
- Are rugs and mats secured to prevent a fall (eg non-slip backing)?
- Are chairs and tables difficult to overturn?
- Do you clean your chimneys and flues yearly?
- Are cigarettes, ashtrays, matches, candles, oil burners and any choking hazards out of reach?
- Are tablemats used instead of tablecloths?
- Are hot drinks placed well out of reach of children?
- Are there safety guards / screens around fire places, fuel, stoves and heaters?
- Are heaters kept away from curtains, furniture or other flammable material and serviced regularly?
- Do your children only wear clothing that is made of low fire risk material or designed to reduce fire risk?
- Is your handbag or visitor's handbags kept out of children's reach?

## Child's Bedroom YES NO

- Is the cot away from the window?
- Are curtain cords secured out of reach (not near the cot) & shortened?
- Are the cot rails 50-95mm apart and mattress firm fitting?
- Are all required items close to the change table?
- Are the toys kept where children can reach them without climbing?
- Is the furniture free of sharp corners?
- Are the toys suitable for the child's age (eg NO strings and ribbons)?
- Are electrical appliances and cords out of reach of young children?
- Electric blankets and hot water bottles are not recommended for children, but have you checked them for wear before using them for adults?
- Is all top heavy furniture such as bookcases, tall boy drawers, televisions and TV cabinets secured to the wall to prevent them from tipping over if climbed on?