

Home Safety Tips

General Safety Standards

- Emergency numbers are posted by each telephone.
- Appliances, lamps, and cords are clean and in good condition.
- A sufficient number of outlets are located in every room where they are needed.
- Outlet extensions that can accommodate several plugs are not used.
- Overload protection is provided by either circuit breakers or fuses.
- Electrical service is of sufficient capacity to serve the house (it is up to code).
- The thermostat of the water heater is set at 110F or lower to prevent accidental scalding.
- Medications are stored in a safe place according to instructions on the label of the package or container.
- Carpeting and rugs are not worn or torn.
- Small, loose rugs have nonskid backing and are not placed in traffic areas.

Kitchen Safety

- The stove and sink areas are well lighted
- If you have a gas stove, it is equipped with pilot lights and an automatic cut-off in the event of flame failure.
- The stove is not located under a window in which curtains are hanging.
- The exhaust hood of the oven is provided with filters that can be easily removed for cleaning.
- The kitchen exhaust system discharges directly outside or through ducts to the outside and not into the attic or other unused space.
- Hazardous household agents are stored out of reach of children.
- When cooking, panhandles are turned away from other burners and from the edge of the stove.
- Small appliances are disconnected when not in use.
- Knives are kept in a knife rack or drawer.
- Counter tops and work areas are cleared of all unnecessary objects.
- Grease and liquid spills are wiped up.

Stairway and Hall Safety

- Steps are in good condition and are free of objects.
- Steps have nonskid strips, or the carpeting on them is securely fastened and free of fraying or holes.
- Smoke alarms are in place in hallways and near sleeping areas.
- Handrails are sturdy and securely fastened.
- Balusters are close enough to prevent a small child from placing his/her head between them.

- Light switches are located at the top and bottom of stairways and at both ends of long
- hallways.
- Doors do not swing out over stairs.

Living Room Safety

- Electric cords are placed along walls- not under rugs- and away from traffic areas.
- Chairs and couches are sturdy and secure.

Bathroom Safety

- The bathtub or shower has a nonskid mat or strips on the standing area.
- Bathtub or shower doors are glazed with safety glass or plastic.
- Hand bars are installed on the walls by the bathtub and toilet.
- Electrical appliances are kept away from the bathtub/shower and sink areas.

Outdoor Safety

- Steps and walkways are in good condition
- Handrails are sturdy and securely fastened.
- Doorways are well lighted.
- Hedges, trees, or shrubs do not obscure the view of the street from the driveway.
- Garage doors are of a type that is easy for you to operate, even when snow is piled against them.
- The garage is adequately ventilated.
- Large trees are healthy and well maintained and have no dead limbs.
- Garden and lawn equipment is stored safely.
- Toxic materials such as pesticides and fertilizer are kept in their own containers, not in unlabeled jars or bottles.

Follow these suggestions in making your home a safer place to live for you and your family. If you spot any deficiencies, correct them as soon as you can.