



There are many measures you can take to ensure that your home is safe, and an easy checklist reviewed occasionally can help you protect your family, friends, employees, and visitors from injury and harm.

Home Safety Checklist

Kitchen

- ✓ Are the exhaust hood and duct on the kitchen stove cleaned frequently?
- ✓ Are cleaners, disinfectants, poisons, etc., stored away from food and out of children's reach?
- ✓ Are utensils and knives stored neatly and kept out of children's reach?
- ✓ Are pot and pan handles turned away from stove fronts?
- ✓ Are cupboard contents stored neatly to prevent falling?
- ✓ Are spills wiped up immediately?
- ✓ Are plastic grocery and shopping bags out of children's reach?

Entrances and stairways

- ✓ Are entrances, halls, and stairways adequately lighted to prevent trips and falls?
- ✓ Are steps and railings well maintained and clear of objects and tripping hazards? Are there at least two exits that are designated fire exits and always kept clear?
- ✓ Is a child's gate used at the top and bottom of stairs if a toddler is living in the home? (Accordion-type gates are dangerous; children's heads can easily get trapped in them.)
- ✓ Does the nanny know when and who to open the door to? (The household policy on this should be reviewed with the employee. Any arranged visits by service people should always be told to the employee ahead of time.)

Living areas

- ✓ Are electrical cords kept away from carpets? Are cords in good condition (not frayed or overloaded)?
- ✓ Are long electrical blinds and drapery cords beyond a child's reach?
- ✓ Are all wires in the house properly insulated?
- ✓ Are there safety outlet covers in all of the unused electrical outlets?
- ✓ Is furniture kept away from windows to prevent children from falling out? (Window screens will not prevent a child from falling out of the window.)
- ✓ Are sharp furniture edges covered?
- ✓ Are radiators and pipes covered to protect against burns?
- ✓ Are lamps located near beds to prevent tripping in the dark?
- ✓ Are all plants safe? (Some plants are toxic and need to be placed out of children's reach.)

Bathrooms

- ✓ Are medicines and vitamins stored out of children's reach?
- ✓ Is the home's hot water temperature set at the safe temperature of 120°F? (If the temperature cannot be altered [i.e., rented homes], then install an anti-scald device on the faucet.)

- ✓ Is there a toilet-lid locking device in households with small children?

Nursery

- ✓ Does the crib mattress snugly fit against the crib's sides? (No more than two fingers' distance should exist between the mattress and the crib railing.)
- ✓ Are crib bars two inches or less apart? (Any more space and a child could be caught or strangled between the crib's bars.)
- ✓ Are crib side rails kept up?

Garage

- ✓ Are all tools and chemicals, including those used for gardening, automotive, and lawn care, stored in a locked container?
- ✓ Are recycling containers holding glass and metal far from children's reach?

Yard

- ✓ Is outdoor play equipment safe with no loose parts or rust?
- ✓ Are surfaces around swing sets and play equipment soft to absorb shock from falls? (Good surface equipment can be sand or wood chips.)
- ✓ Is access to the swimming pool blocked for small children? Are dangerous cleaning chemicals kept locked away?

Fire Safety Checks

- ✓ Are there smoke and carbon monoxide detectors on each level of the home and near the sleeping area? Are detectors cleaned and checked monthly to ensure that they are operating? Are batteries replaced at least once a year?
- ✓ Are detectors replaced every ten years? (Detectors become less sensitive over time.)
- ✓ Does the home have one or more fire extinguishers and do all household members and nannies know how to operate them?
- ✓ Is there a clearly written fire escape plan for the home? Is the plan practiced at least twice a year?