



CHILD SAFETY IN THE HOME



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Opening blinds and windows to let in the first rays of summer sun is an energizing way to welcome the season into your home. But keep in mind that window coverings with exposed window cords (looped bead chains, pull cords, and lifting loops on roll-up blinds) can present a serious safety hazard in homes with young children. Almost every month, window cord strangulation causes the death of one child between ages seven months and 10 years, and another child experiences a near strangulation.² Windows are not the only dangerous part of your home. Cabinets, staircases, pools and spas, magnets, and electrical outlets can also present serious safety hazards to children.¹

Prevention Tips

Prevent injuries to children in your home by following the tips below:

- ▶ Do a walk-through of your home and assess the shades and blinds. Are there accessible cords on the front, side, or back of the product? If yes, consider replacing them with cordless window coverings.²
- ▶ Always use safety gates in front of staircases to prevent children from falling down the stairs.¹
- ▶ Cover all electrical outlets with outlet covers to prevent the risk of electrocution.¹
- ▶ If you have a pool or spa in a home with young children, make sure it is covered when it's not in use. It is highly recommended that you install a 4-foot tall fence with self-closing, self-latching gates around the pool or spa area.¹ Implementing these steps will prevent pool or spa use without supervision and help minimize the risk of accidental drowning.¹
- ▶ Do you use magnets to post photos, grocery lists, and other things on your refrigerator and/or freezer? If yes, be careful about loose magnets and magnetic pieces falling to the ground where children are present, as they can pose a serious ingestion danger. Between 2009 – 2011, there were more than 2,000 emergency room visits per year as a result of magnet ingestions.¹
- ▶ Sharp edges are everywhere around the home including coffee tables, chairs, and fireplaces. It is recommended that you use corner and edge bumpers to help prevent injuries that may be sustained from falling against these sharp edges.¹

¹ Childproofing Your Home. U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. <http://www.cpsc.gov/en/Safety-Education/Safety-Guides/Kids-and-Babies/Childproofing-Your-Home--12-Safety-Devices-To-Protect-Your-Children/>. Accessed March 2015.

² Window Covering Information Center. U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. <http://www.cpsc.gov/en/Safety-Education/Safety-Education-Centers/Window-Covering/>. Accessed March 2015.

For more information on your local resources, contact:



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