

Home Safety Checklist

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 50°C?
- Have you removed any potentially poisonous house plants?
- Do you have smoke alarms located between the sleeping areas and the rest of the house?
- Have long cords been bound with twist ties or extra cord hidden?
- Are heaters and fans 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?
- Do you have a home fire escape plan?
- Are all balcony entry points locked and are the rail heights at least 1.2m high?
- Are windows locked and shielded with firm screens?

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?'

Yes No

- 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 38°C)
- Are the 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

- 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 blanket and fire extinguisher at the exit to the room ready to use in the event of a fire?
- Is there a barrier across the doorway to prevent your child access to the kitchen?
- Are curtains away from the stove?

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?

Home Safety Checklist

LAUNDRY (cont.)

Yes No

- Do you clean the lint filter of your dryer before every use?
- Is the floor kept dry and non-slippery?

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?
- Is everything I need close to the changing 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?

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?
- Are cigarettes, ashtrays, matches and lighters out of reach?

Yes No

- Are tablemats used instead of tablecloths?
- Are hot drinks placed well out of reach of children?
- Are there safety guards attached to the wall around fire places, fuel, stoves and heaters?
- Are heaters kept away from curtains, furniture or other flammable material?
- 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?

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. If you have a pool is it fenced?
- 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 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)?
- 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?