

STREET SAFETY

By the time your child begins to walk, the street is a potential hazard. Close adult supervision and proper lessons on how and where to cross streets are vitally important.

CAR SAFETY

Don't forget Pennsylvania's automobile Child Safety Seat Law. It requires that all children under the age of four be secured in an approved child safety seat - whether riding in the front seat or back seat. Children ages 4 to 8 must use a booster seat if they are no longer in a car seat.

- Never leave a child unattended in a vehicle.
- Set a good example. Always use a seat belt and teach your child to buckle up. It's smart and it's the law.

BICYCLE SAFETY

Pennsylvania law requires a child under age 12 to wear an approved bicycle safety helmet whether operating a bike, riding in a trailer pulled by a bike or riding in a restraining seat attached to a bike.

- Be sure your child's bike and helmet are the right size.
- Teach your child safe biking practices and set specific limits on where your child may safely ride.



FIRE SAFETY

- Install smoke alarms in your home and check the batteries often.
- Develop emergency escape plans should a fire occur in your home.
- Teach your child about fire safety.

A FINAL THOUGHT

Consider learning basic first aid and CPR for the sake of your children, your family and your peace of mind.

Checklist For Childproofing Your Home

- Remove all knickknacks, whatnots and treasures from tables, stands and shelves within reach of your child.
- Regularly search floor surfaces and furniture thoroughly for any potentially dangerous objects small enough to fit in your child's mouth and cause choking. Nuts, pins, coins, buttons and balloons are a few examples.
- Install protective covers on electrical outlets, tape down electrical cords and eliminate extension cords if possible. Besides the possibility of electrical burns, a dangling cord can be an invitation for your child to pull an appliance or light down on him.
- Install safety gates at the top and bottom of all stairs and keep stairs free of clutter.
- Put plastic door knob sleeves, locks or safety chains on all doors you wish to be off limits to your child. Safeguard any windows that a child might crawl through or fall out of.

Caution -- When child proofing doors and windows, however, keep fire safety and your home's escape plan in mind.



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A Guide To Making Your Home



Child Safe

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Accidents Happen When Children Are Not Supervised Even For The Briefest Time

Children are into everything, and you need to determine if your home is a safe place for your child to explore and learn.

From the day of birth, a child's world is full of brand new wonders - fascinating things to see, touch, taste and chew. As your child grows and his world expands, inquisitive eyes and hands seem to be everywhere.

During the first five years of life, your child will experience several stages of development that alternately offer parents thrills and exasperation! The "crawler", at age 7 to 12 months, begins to explore the floor and low areas. Nothing escapes curious eyes, fingers and especially mouth. The "toddler", having reached ages 1 to 2 years, is fast! It's no wonder this group has the highest accident rate of any age group. Activities like reaching, climbing, testing, imitating and tasting demand adult supervision at all times. Between ages 2 and 5 nothing is safe from the "climber" unless it is locked up. "Why" is the child's most frequently used word and "no" may well be yours.

Now is the time to begin teaching your child about safety. As adults we know that the stove is hot, the dog food is not very tasty and the stairs can be dangerous. Children will learn some of these lessons by experience, but the experience can be safely learned if your home is "childproofed" for safety. This brochure may help you find some peace of mind by providing tips for making your home a safer place for your child to live, play and learn.

From
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IN THE BATHROOM

- Never leave a child unattended in the bath tub. Drowning can occur in as little as one-half inch of water.
- Use care with water temperature and test it with your elbow. A child's skin is sensitive and can burn easily. Avoid bathing a baby in the shower since water can turn scalding hot accidentally and suddenly.
- Use a baby tub for an infant in the bath tub and progress to a rubberized mat or skid-proof decals in the tub as the child outgrows the baby tub.
- Safely lock up all cleansers, cosmetics, razors, shampoos, creams, etc.
- Make sure any glass shower door is safety glass.
- Discard any automatic toilet bowl cleaner dispensed through the tank - it is toxic. Keep toilet lid down to discourage exploration.
- Make sure you can unlock doors from the outside should a child lock it from the inside.

IN THE NURSERY OR CHILD'S ROOM

- Do not put plastic sheeting over mattresses or pillows, and keep in mind that pillows can suffocate very young children.
- Keep used diapers in a container with a childproof lid. Some cake deodorants used in pails are toxic.
- In the crib - keep mobiles out of reach and check toys for buttons, removable eyes, strings, etc. that could be dangerous.
- In the changing area - keep powders, creams, pins and other small objects out of reach.
- Be sure nothing in a child's room is painted with a lead-based or otherwise toxic finish. Repaint any suspect area with non-toxic paint but only after removing other paint first.
- Placement of furniture is important. Drafts, hot sunlight and windows accessible to the "climber" should be considered.

POISON PREVENTION

Potentially poisonous substances can be found everywhere around your home: medications, household cleaning materials, garage and auto products, some indoor and outdoor plants, perfumes and colognes, cosmetics, lead-based paint, pesticides, and insect repellents are just a few.

Childproof locks and latches are available in a variety of styles at your local hardware store. Invest in them!

Pennsylvania Poison Control

- Have the telephone numbers of the Poison Center posted prominently near your phone:

Emergency Toll-Free Number
1-800-222-1222

Local & TTY Numbers

For Central PA - TTY (717) 531-8335
For Eastern PA - TTY/TDD (215) 590-8789
For Western PA - (412) 390-3300

- Keep a one-ounce bottle of Syrup of Ipecac in the house -- use only with the advice of the Poison Center, a hospital emergency department or a physician.

Checklist For Poison Proofing Your Home

- Install child safety latches/locks on cabinets and drawers where you store any potential poisons.
- Store all products in their original containers.
- Keep medicines in original safety lock containers in a safely secured cabinet.
- Avoid taking medications in front of children and never refer to medications as "candy" or "sweets".
- Keep cribs, playpens and other painted articles free of chipped or flaked paint. Repaint with lead-free paint.
- Keep moth balls stored in safety containers.
- Keep ashtrays, matches, cigarette packs, cigars and pipes out of a child's reach.
- Keep alcoholic beverages out of a child's reach.
- Keep plants, seeds and bulbs out of a child's reach.
- Use "Mr. Yuk" stickers on the "uglies" and teach your child to identify this symbol and heed it.

IN THE KITCHEN

- Don't allow pot handles to stick out over the edge of the stove.
- Avoid dangling appliance cords.
- Store knives and other sharp-edged implements safely after each use.
- Safeguard large appliances to include safety locks and protective covers on trash compactors, garbage disposals, dishwashers, refrigerators, microwaves and stoves.
- Be careful when using refrigerator magnets small enough to go in baby's mouth.

