

Keeping your baby safe at home

When you bring a new baby home, household hazards can be around every corner. Keeping your baby safe is a big job that takes some planning. Here are some tips for baby-proofing your home.

In the house¹

- 0 Install smoke alarms in each room and test them once each month. Change the batteries at least once a year.
- 0 Install a carbon monoxide alarm. Test it every month, and change the batteries once a year.
- 0 Use safety tassels for curtains and window blind cords.
- 0 Use childproof locks or stoppers to keep children from falling out of windows.
- 0 Check the age guidelines for all toys to avoid choking hazards.²
- 0 Use baby gates at the top and bottom of stairways.

In the baby's room³

- 0 To help prevent SIDS, always place your baby on his or her back to sleep.
- 0 Make sure the space between crib slats is 2 3/8 inches apart or less.
- 0 Choose a crib mattress that fits the crib snugly.
- 0 Keep small toys, balls, balloons, soft bedding, pillows and pillow-like bumper pads out of the crib.
- 0 Keep your baby's crib away from windows.⁴
- 0 Use a fitted bottom sheet made especially for the size of the crib mattress.
- 0 Use anchors to secure furniture to the wall.⁵
- 0 Never leave your baby alone on a table, bed or other high surface.



In the bathroom

- 0 Turn your hot water heater down. Make sure your hot water is no more than 120 degrees.⁶
- 0 Make sure your baby's bath water is lukewarm. Keep your eyes on your child while in the bathtub at all times.⁷
- 0 Get knob covers or face your baby away from the faucet.⁸
- 0 Keep the toilet lid closed and locked.⁹
- 0 Keep pills, vitamins, mouthwash, alcohol, beauty and cleaning supplies, razors, curling irons, hair dryers and bug sprays locked away and out of reach.¹⁰

In the kitchen¹¹

- 0 Put your baby in a safe place, such as a high chair or swing, away from the stove or microwave while you cook.
- 0 Keep your baby away from hot liquids and foods.

If your baby gets hurt

Try to stay calm. Call your baby's doctor or 911 in case of an emergency. It's best to keep emergency numbers posted near your phone at all times.

Make your home
a safe place for
your baby to grow.

Source: 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10 U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission website: Childproofing Your Home: 12 Safety Devices to Protect Your Children (Accessed July 2011): cpsc.gov

2 U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission website: CPSC Delivers the ABCs of Toy Safety (Accessed July 2011): cpsc.gov

3 U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission website: Crib Safety Tips: Use Your Crib Safely (Accessed July 2011): cpsc.gov

6, 7 U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission website: Water Safety Tips (Accessed July 2011): cpsc.gov

11 U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission website: Recipe for Safer Cooking (Accessed July 2011): cpsc.gov

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