

ELECTRICAL

- Are cords placed along the walls and walking areas?***
 - Check extension, lamp, telephone, and computer cords
 - Don't place cords under rugs, carpeting or furniture
 - Are small appliances unplugged when not in use?***
 - Include portable and space heaters, razors and hair dryers
 - Check for frayed or cracked cords and replace if needed
 - Don't overload outlets, electrical strips or extension cords
 - Make sure extension cords do not exceed wattage
 - Ensure electrical cords are away from water sources
 - Are electrical outlets exposed?***
 - Make sure that all outlets have covers and all switches have plates, so that no electrical wires are exposed
 - Place child safety plugs into each outlet when not in use
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FURNITURE

- Is your bookshelf/television stand sturdy?***
 - Check for weight limitations
 - Make sure televisions are secure
 - Secure or anchor any tall furniture to the wall following manufacturer instructions to avoid tip overs
 - Check to ensure shelves are not overloaded

STAIRS and PASSAGEWAYS

- Are your runners and rugs slip resistant?***
 - Secure mats with slip resistant backing
 - Replace rug/mat if backing is damaged
 - Are stairways well lit and equipped with handrails?***
 - Replace light bulbs when needed
 - Check wattage of bulbs to ensure no overload
 - Install handrails on each side
 - Firmly affix carpeting or treads on stairs
 - Are passageways clear to avoid a tripping hazard?***
 - Remove furniture or other protruding objects
 - Use night lights in dark hallways between bedrooms and bathrooms
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BATHROOM and KITCHEN

- Is the surface area equipped with non-slip mats or strips?***
 - Replace any damaged mats or strips
 - Consider handrails or grab bars where necessary
- Are all medicines kept in their original containers and stored out of the reach of children?***
 - Install cabinet locks if needed
- Are poisonous products clearly labeled and stored out of the reach of children?***
 - Include paint thinners
 - Secure cabinets with child safe locks
- Can anything catch on fire?***
 - Make sure clothing, towels and pot holders are away from range

MISCELLANEOUS

- Are all windows safe and sound?***
 - Install window guards and stops
 - Keep furniture away from windows to prevent a child from climbing near windows
 - Tie up all blind cords
- Is the pool area fenced and gated?***
 - NYS law requires all pools to be fenced and have a self-closing, child proof gate
 - Do not leave inflated pools filled when not in use
- Are you prepared for an emergency?***
 - Place a working fire extinguisher in the kitchen, garage and elsewhere as needed
 - Be prepared to use an extinguisher when needed
 - Post emergency phone numbers on or near the telephone
 - Have an emergency exit plan and meeting area
- Are smoke and carbon monoxide detectors properly installed and maintained?***
 - Install detectors on every floor and outside each bedroom
 - Check batteries at least twice a year
 - Replace smoke alarms every 10 years and carbon monoxide detectors every 5 years
 - Vacuum your carbon monoxide detector to clean out any cobwebs, dust, or pet hair that may clog the detector's sensors

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Remember – these are basic tips that will help improve your safety, but do not reflect all the safety steps that could be followed.

HOME SAFETY

How to prevent accidents in the home

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Each year millions of people suffer injuries in their home. Most of these injuries are avoidable if you practice prevention and take simple steps to correct hazards. Use this checklist frequently to spot some potential safety problems in your home and follow these recommendations to help keep you and your family safe.