

# Child proofing and safety

Over 2 million children are injured or killed each year simply by hazards in a home. Most of the accidents can be prevented by using child safety devices that are out on the market today.

You can find a plethora of safety devices in hardware stores, baby department stores and on line.

Here is a short list of easy and non-expensive safety devices for your home that can help save a life or save on a few injuries.

1. Have Smoke Detectors installed in every bedroom and a main area in the house.
2. Have an escape/evacuation plan in place in case of fire dangers.
3. Install a Carbon Monoxide detector near appropriate equipment.
4. Install safety gates at the head of stairways and around the pool area.
5. Use anti scald devices for your faucets or shower heads. Your water heater should not be set any hotter than 120 degrees Fahrenheit.
6. Make sure your deck's and balcony's railings are properly installed for young children. Which means that railing pickets should not be any further than 4 inches apart or something the size of a softball should not fit through the pickets.
7. Don't let your window blind cords hang way down when little ones are around. They can get caught up in the cords and get strangled.
8. Install outlet covers in your electrical receptacles. The new law regarding arc fault protection is helping with this issue but in older homes, getting shocked can still be a hazard.
9. Keep safety latches on doors and cabinet doors in bathrooms and kitchens where you keep chemicals to keep young children out.
10. You can install corner bumpers on sharp edges like a fireplace hearth or furniture.
11. The use of Door locks and door knob covers can keep young children from entering rooms where safety is a concern and exiting doors by accident for instance out to a swimming pool without adult supervision.