

Home Safety Tips Checklist

Slip, Trip, & Fall Prevention

- Avoid clutter by keeping floors and stairs clear of stored items.
- Turn lights on for good illumination especially in stairways.
- Check stair handrails periodically to make sure they're well secured to the wall.
- Look for loose carpet and rugs and secure with tacks or double-sided tape.
- Install grab bars in showers and apply nonskid stickers in bathtub and shower bases.

Fire Prevention

- Install smoke detectors on each floor level including the basement and attic.
- Regularly test smoke detectors and replace batteries at least annually.
- Keep a fire extinguisher handy (in the kitchen) and inspect it periodically for use-readiness.
- Turn pot and pan handles away from the stove front and not over burners.
- Store flammable liquids such as gas and kerosene outdoors and store rags soaked with flammable liquids outdoors or in a tight lid container.
- Keep & read the manufacturer's label on chemical products for proper storage requirements.
- Install a carbon monoxide detector near kerosene and gas heaters and always vent exhaust outdoors.
- Clean ashes out of a fireplace regularly and have flues cleaned by a professional based on usage amount.
- Store combustible materials away from heaters, fireplaces, and ignition sources.
- Allow for a cooldown period before refilling kerosene heaters.
- If you smoke, do so outdoors.
- Create an evacuation plan and conduct a drill at least annually and teach family members to stop, drop, and roll in the event clothing catches fire.

Poisoning Prevention

- Always read labels on cleaning & disinfecting solutions for directions on proper use and storage and close the container immediately after use.
- Properly dispose of old paint cans, thinners, and hazardous materials at a recycling center that accepts hazardous waste.
- Store cleaning solutions, etc. in locked cabinets to prevent access to children.
- Store prescription and OTC medications out of the reach of children and make sure childproof lids are tightly secured.
- Properly dispose of outdated or unused medications such as at your local police department.

Electrical Safety

- Never overload circuits or daisy chain plug strips.
- Inspect electrical cords for ground pins and any defects to wire insulation.
- Don't run electrical cords under carpet or rugs.
- Periodically check electric blankets for damage.
- Periodically test GFCI outlets in the bathroom and around kitchen sinks.
- Unplug electrical appliances when not in regular use.
- Never use faulty appliances that spark, smoke, or make a strange noise.

Pool Drowning Prevention

- Don't let anyone swim unattended.
- Don't allow swimming when physically exhausted or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Keep the pool area fenced in and locked when not in use.
- Cover the pool during extended periods of nonuse.
- Take a CPR class and maintain certification.