



# HOME SAFETY

*"There are simple steps you can take to help keep your loved ones safe in and around the home."*

## Did you know...?

- Home accidents kill one person every 16 minutes and injure one person every four seconds in the U.S..<sup>1</sup>
- More than 1.2 million poisonings among children under age 5 were reported to U.S. poison control centers in 2002.<sup>2</sup>
- Nearly 40,000 children under age 14 are injured by fires each year.<sup>3</sup>

Home Safety is the prevention of unintentional injuries that occur in and around the home.

## What is it?

Many home related injuries are **preventable**. Below are some of the many small and easy things you can do to protect your family.

Post emergency telephone numbers next to all phones to get help quickly for any type of injury.

### Poison

- Read warning labels and follow storage directions on household products. Poisonous products can include medicines, cleaning supplies, pesticides, and hair spray.
- Keep poisonous products out of children's sight and reach. Store on high shelves in locked cabinets and install child-proof latches.
- Store food and non-food products separately to prevent confusion and possible food contamination.
- Always choose non-toxic alternatives when possible and use products with child-resistant caps.
- Never mix cleaning products together; they may produce dangerous fumes (ammonia and bleach should never be mixed).
- Install Carbon Monoxide (CO) detectors in your home.
- Properly dispose of expired medicines.
- If it is necessary to use harsh chemicals, use them when children are not at home, follow manufacturer's instructions, and wear protective clothing such as gloves and eye protection.

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**⚠️ ¡AVERTENCIA!** • Para evitar lesiones, golpes e incluso muerte, instale la red de seguridad del bebé y asegúrese de que esté correctamente instalada. • Cada vez que el bebé se levante o se mueva asegúrese de que la red esté correctamente instalada. • Cada vez que el bebé se levante o se mueva asegúrese de que la red esté correctamente instalada. • Cada vez que el bebé se levante o se mueva asegúrese de que la red esté correctamente instalada. • Cada vez que el bebé se levante o se mueva asegúrese de que la red esté correctamente instalada.



U.S. Department of Housing and  
Urban Development

Office of Lead Hazard Control and  
Healthy Homes



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## Fires and Burns

- Install smoke detectors on every floor of your home near every bedroom. Test detectors every month and change their batteries every year. Never disable smoke detectors.
- Develop a family escape plan.
- Keep matches, lighters, and candles out of children's reach.
- Never smoke in bed. It is the leading cause of fire-related deaths.
- Keep anything that can catch fire away from fireplaces, heaters, and radiators.
- Keep electrical systems in good condition. Replace frayed electrical wires.
- Avoid kitchen fires and burns.
  - Stay in the kitchen while cooking.
  - Turn pot handles toward the inside of the stove so children cannot grab them.
  - Install ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) in kitchens and bathrooms.
- Set water-heater thermostats below 120° F (50° C). Always test the water before bathing yourself or your child.

## Drowning, Choking, Suffocation, and Strangulation

- Never leave children alone near water, including bathtubs, buckets, swimming pools, rivers, and the ocean. Learn and practice First Aid and CPR.
- Use child-proof fencing around all swimming pools and hot-tubs.
- Avoid toys for children under 3 years of age that are smaller than 2 inches long and 1 inch wide. Toys for young children should never have small or removable parts that could be choked on.
- Avoid window blinds with looped cords, which may cause strangulation if not stored out of children's reach.
- Keep plastic bags and drawstring cords away from children.

## Falls and Other Injuries

- Keep your floors free of anything that may cause tripping, such as toys, shoes, or magazines.
- Use stools, ladders and stepladders carefully.
- Make sure that your home is well lit.
- Use guards on windows and safety gates near stairs to keep children from falling.
- Follow manufacturers' instructions for storing and using lawn equipment or chemicals.
- Wear protective gear on eyes and ears when using power tools.
- Keep sharp objects out of children's reach.
- Keep electric appliances away from water.
- Always keep firearms well secured. Firearms should always be locked, unloaded, and stored out of reach of children. Store ammunition in a separate, locked location.

## For more information . . .

Visit HUD's website at [www.hud.gov/healthyhomes](http://www.hud.gov/healthyhomes) for more information about addressing health and safety hazards in homes or to learn if HUD has a Healthy Homes program in your community. From this website, you can download a copy of "Help Yourself to A Healthy Home" for more practical steps you can take to make your home a healthy home.

## Other Federal Resources

US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

US Environmental Protection Agency  
[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

## Other Resources

National Safe Kids Campaign  
[www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org)

National Safety Council  
[www.nationalsafetycouncil.org](http://www.nationalsafetycouncil.org)

Home Safety Council  
[www.homesafetycouncil.org](http://www.homesafetycouncil.org)

## Emergency Resources

National Poison Control Center hotline: 1-800-222-1222.

For other emergencies (fire, drowning, choking, falls, etc.) call 911. In areas without 911 service, memorize your fire department's emergency phone number. In case of fire, dial 911 from outside your home.