

Child Proofing Checklist

Newborn

- Make sure baby crib adheres to current safety standards
- Keep baby's crib free of pillows, bumpers, stuffed animals, and blankets
- Place baby monitors and electrical cords at least 3 feet away
- Retrofit or replace any corded window coverings. Any cord is a hazard.
- Install smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.
- install a latch for the toilet seat.
- Install gates to prevent access to stairs and other areas parents wish to keep off-limits.
- Adjust water heater temperature to 120 degrees F.
- Create a storage area for purses and briefcases that's out of reach of children.
- Anchor TVs and furniture, including dressers and bookcases to the wall.
- Install a fence around any pool or hot tub. Install a pool alarm.

Crawling

- Cover electrical outlets lower than counter height and select products that are not choking hazards.
- Remove nightlights in any lower outlets.
- Cover sharp furniture edges and corners.
- Pack up and put away breakables and valuables.
- Keep items away from the edges of tables and counter tops.
- Secure and hide electrical cords, including lamp and appliance cords.
- Install latches on appliance and oven doors, or keep them securely closed at all times.
- Ensure that the area 3-4 feet up from the floor is free of choking hazards, including loose change, marbles, and rubber bands.
- Keep household cleaners and medicines up high (latches help, but children can defeat them).
- Learn and post the number for Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222.
- Ensure stoves are anchored.
- Empty bathtubs and buckets of water immediately after use.

Toddler

- Keep windows latched. Screens will not protect a child from a window fall.
- Lock doors to the outside.
- Keep household medications in child resistant containers and in a high cabinet.
- Unplug small appliances and keep them out of reach.
- Remove sharp items from counter tops.
- Secure doors to off-limit areas such as cellars and garages.
- Install stove knob covers.
- Create a space out of reach of children for small electronic devices to rest and charge.
- Place hot foods and liquids on the center of tables and counter tops, not on edges, table cloths or place mats.
- Be careful with chairs & step stools especially for climbers!
- Ensure couches and other furniture are not placed next to balconies or railings.

Child

- Double-check previously installed latches, locks, and gates, to see if your child is now able to overcome them.
- Continue keeping cleaners and medications out of reach.
- Teach children how to respond to the sound of a smoke alarm at home. Make an escape plan, and practice it with your kids.
- Check your smoke alarms twice a year.
- Keep matches and lighters up high and out of reach.
- Install window stops or guards on windows on upper floors.
- Teach your child his or her full name, street address, and phone number.
- Continue adult supervision during bath time.
- Keep firearms unloaded and locked in a cabinet.
- Remove or retrofit any storage trunks or chests which cannot be opened from the inside.