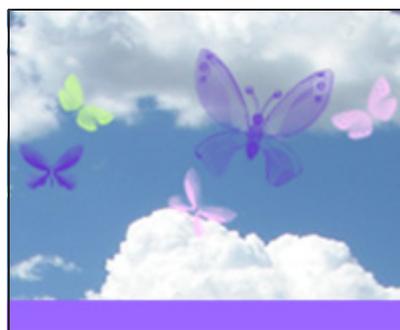


# 100 Things to Make Your House Safer in 2012

Safety doesn't take a lot of time, but it does take thought and planning. Pick one, 10 or 100 of the things below and get started today. It will only take a few moments to read and remember...and possibly avoid a catastrophic accident.

1. If young children live in or visit your home, know your window type and make sure they do not pose a risk for accidental falls. >> WINDOWS THAT POSE A RISK
2. Test each smoke alarm in your home
3. Replace the batteries in each smoke alarm
4. Count how many smoke alarms you have in your house. If you do not have one on every level and near sleeping areas, purchase additional smoke alarms
5. Designate an outside meeting place for your family (for example: the mailbox) in case of a fire or emergency
6. Blow out candles before leaving the room or going to sleep
7. Use a sturdy candle holder or hurricane lamp
8. Turn down your hot water heater to 120 degrees or less to prevent burns
9. Roll up your sleeves before you start cooking
10. Have oven mitts nearby when cooking
11. Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove
12. Store all matches and lighters out of reach of children
13. Put hot food and drinks near the center of the table only
14. Put down your hot drink when carrying your baby
15. Test hot water with an elbow before allowing a child to touch
16. Post your fire escape plan on your refrigerator
17. Put water on cigarette butts before throwing them away
18. Unplug small appliances such as hair dryers and toasters after using them
19. Use flameless candles
20. Move anything that can burn, like dish towels, at least three feet away from the stove
21. Practice "Stop, Drop and Roll" with your kids
22. Schedule an appointment to have your furnace cleaned and inspected

23. Look for the UL Mark when you buy appliances
24. Tell kids to stay away from the stove/oven
25. Turn space heaters off before going to bed
26. Remove any gasoline from your home
27. Put non-slip strips in your tub and shower
28. Install night lights in the hallway
29. Put a flashlight in each bedroom
30. Wipe up spills as soon as they happen to prevent slips and falls
31. Use a sturdy Christmas tree stand
32. Water your Christmas tree every day
33. Keep your Christmas tree at least three feet away from any heat source
34. Inspect your Christmas lights for signs of damage
35. Flip over large buckets so water cannot accumulate and become a drowning danger
36. Store cleaners and other poisons away from food
37. Post the Poison Control hotline number (1-800-222-1222) next to your phone
38. If you have children, use cabinet locks on cabinets that have poisons such as antifreeze, cleaners, detergents, etc.
39. Keep medicine in its original containers
40. Purchase a carbon monoxide detector for your home
41. Test your carbon monoxide (CO) alarm
42. Put your infant to sleep on his/her back
43. Remove any soft bedding, stuffed animals and pillows from your infant's crib
44. Cut your toddler's food into small bites



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45. Use safety straps on high chairs and changing tables
46. Check [www.recalls.gov](http://www.recalls.gov) to see if any items in your home (including cribs) have been recalled
47. Move cribs away from windows
48. Use safety covers on unused electrical outlets
49. Test small toys for choking hazards – if it fits in a toilet paper roll, it's too small
50. Remove all plastic bags from the nursery
51. Pick up any small items, such as coins or buttons, that can be choking hazards for infants and toddlers
52. Write down emergency contact information for your family and make sure everyone has these numbers
53. Tie window cords out of a child's reach
54. Check your child's bath water temperature (use your wrist or elbow) to make sure it is not too hot
55. Remove drawstrings from your baby's clothing
56. Keep the toilet lid shut to prevent little fingers from getting slammed by a falling lid
57. If you have toddlers, install a toilet seat lock
58. If you have young children, install door knob covers on bathroom doors
59. Use a fireplace screen
60. Put toys away after playing
61. Don't refer to medicine or vitamins as "candy"
62. Put on safety glasses before any DIY project
63. Put tools away after your DIY project is complete
64. Post emergency numbers near your phone
65. Pick up one new thing for your family's emergency preparedness kit
66. Use a ladder, not a chair, when climbing to reach something
67. Use plastic instead of glass near the pool
68. Cover any spa or hot tub when it is not in use
69. Purchase a first aid kit
70. Drain the bath tub immediately after bathing
71. Remove clutter from the stairs
72. Use the handrail when you are walking up or down the stairs
73. If the power goes out, use flashlights instead of candles
74. Ask smokers to smoke outside
75. Wear proper shoes when climbing a ladder
76. Check your home for too many plugs in one socket and fix the problem
77. Install baby gates at the top and bottom of stairs if you have young children
78. Never leave food cooking unattended
79. Make sure pools or spas are properly fenced to keep out small children
80. Teach kids to tell you when they see matches or lighters
81. Turn out the lights when you leave the room
82. Unplug appliances that aren't in use (especially in the kitchen)
83. Take your hair dryer off of the bathroom counter and store it safely
84. Check your electronics for the UL Mark
85. Identify two exits from every room with your kids in case of fire
86. Check your holiday decorations – keep breakable decorations out of reach of young children
87. Replace an old light bulb with a new energy-efficient option
88. Check the walls for loose paint chips and re-paint with low-VOC or VOC-free paint
89. Check all the outlets in your home for overloaded sockets or extension cords
90. Remove any extension cords that are pulled under rugs or tacked up
91. Place fire extinguishers in key areas of your home
92. Place an escape ladder in an upstairs room that might not have an easy exit
93. Remove any painted furniture that is pre-1978 to avoid possible lead exposure
94. Lock medications safely in a cabinet
95. Consider low-flow toilets
96. Check that all major appliances are grounded and test your GFCIs
97. Clean the lint trap and hose on your dryer
98. Check your swing set for sharp edges or dangerous S-hooks
99. Take a tour of your home from your child's perspective looking for hazards
100. Hold a family fire drill