



Shopping for safety devices

You can childproof your home for a fraction of what it would cost to have a professional do it, and the safety devices listed are easy to find. You can buy them at hardware stores, baby equipment shops, supermarkets, drugstores, home and linen stores, and through mail order catalogs.

For more information, contact the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission at (800) 638-2772 or visit their website at www.cpsc.gov.

Note: Information contained herein is from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.



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Childproofing your home

Twelve safety devices to protect your children

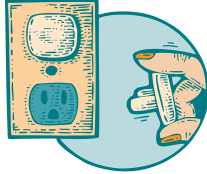


About 2.5 million children are injured or killed by hazards in the home each year. Using simple child safety devices on the market today can prevent many of these incidents.

Remember no safety device is completely childproof — determined youngsters have been known to disable any number of them.

Here are some child safety devices that can help prevent many injuries to young children, along with some typical costs:

1. Use outlet covers and outlet plates to help prevent electrical shock or possible electrocution. Be sure protectors cannot be easily removed by children and are large enough so children cannot choke on them. Cost: less than \$2 each.



2. Use smoke detectors on every level of your home and near bedrooms to alert you to fires. Cost: under \$10 each.

3. Use a carbon monoxide (CO) detector outside bedrooms to help prevent CO poisoning in homes with gas or oil heat or in homes with attached garages. Cost: \$30 to \$70.



4. Use anti-scald devices for faucet and shower heads and set your water heater temperature to 120 degrees to help prevent burns from hot water. Cost: \$6 to \$30 each.

5. Use safety latches and locks for cabinets and drawers in kitchens, bathrooms, and other areas to help prevent poisoning and other injuries. Cost: less than \$2.

6. Use safety gates to help prevent falls down stairs and to keep children away from dangerous areas. Cost: \$13 to \$40.



7. Use doorknob covers and door locks to help prevent children from entering rooms and other areas with possible dangers. Cost: cover - about \$1, lock - \$5 and up.

8. Use window guards, window stops or safety netting to help prevent falls from windows, balconies, decks and landings. Whenever possible, open windows from the top and keep furniture away from windows to discourage climbing near windows. Cost: \$5 to \$30.



9. Use corner and edge bumpers to help prevent injuries from falls against sharp edges of furniture and fireplaces. Cost: \$1 and up.

10. Cut window blind cords and use safety tassels to help prevent children from strangling in blind cord loops. Get tassels free by calling the Window Covering Safety Council at (800) 506-4636.

11. Use door stops and door holders to help prevent injuries to fingers and hands. Cost: under \$4.

12. Keep a cordless telephone with you to make it easier to continuously watch young children, especially when they're in bathtubs, swimming pools or other potentially dangerous areas. Cost: \$30 and up.