
GENERAL

- Make sure the numerals for your address are clearly visible from the street.
- Keep important phone numbers – including police, fire, poison control and emergency services near the telephone, and be sure to write in large, easy-to-read print.
- Water leaks can cause serious damage to your home and your health – identify the cause of any leak and fix it promptly.
- Have your gutters and downspouts checked once a year to ensure they are clean and free of obstructions.
- Set your water heater no hotter than 120 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Keep low coffee tables, magazine racks, footrests and plants out of walkways.
- Remove old throw rugs and install a non-slip pad.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

- Do not place cords where they can be a tripping hazard and never place cords under rugs or carpets.
- Do not drape cords over space heaters, radiators or other hot surfaces.
- If possible, avoid using extension cords.
- Use safety plugs to cover unused electrical outlets.
- Never overload outlets, extension cords or power strips.
- Install ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) electrical receptacles in kitchen and bathrooms.

FIRE SAFETY

- Have a plan for escape in case of a home fire that all occupants understand, making special considerations for small children and older home occupants.
- Have an ABC-rated fire extinguisher on every floor of the house, especially in or near the kitchen.
- Be sure that everyone in the house knows how to properly operate fire extinguishers.
- Have your furnace checked once a year.
- Have your chimney and flue inspected once a year.
- Never leave a space heater, halogen lamp or open flame unattended. Do not keep any of these items close to curtains or other flammable materials.
- Make sure that all lamps and fixtures are equipped with bulbs having wattage equal to or less than the manufacturer's suggestion.

SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

- Have an operating smoke and/or carbon monoxide detector on each floor of your home.
- Check batteries twice a year (when daylight savings time changes) and replace as needed.
- If anyone in your home is hearing impaired, be sure that the smoke detectors in your home alert using lights or vibrations, as well as sound.

KITCHEN

- Be sure to have sturdy step stools and ladders on hand. Do not use a chair to reach high surfaces of your home.
- Store flammable items away from your stovetop or range:
 - Do not place rags or towels on the oven handle.
 - Store plastic utensils and pot holders away from hot surfaces.
- Do not wear loose fitting clothing while cooking.
- Turn pot handles away from the front of the stove.
- Unplug all portable and countertop appliances that are not in use.
- Make sure that the kitchen is well-lit.
- Clean all spills immediately to avoid slips and the spread of bacteria.
- Separate cleaning products and other chemicals from food and drinks.
- Keep anything poisonous secure and out of reach of children.
- Use the exhaust fan when cooking to avoid moisture build up.

HALLS AND ENTRYWAYS

- Make sure that all windows and doors to the outside close and lock securely.
- Keep keys to internal door locks close to the door and easily accessible.
- Keep hallways clear for easy passage in case of an emergency.
- Place locks where all members of the household can reach and use them.
- Be sure that any walkways to the house are free of tripping hazards.
- Widen doorways to accommodate household members who use a walker or wheelchair.

STAIRS

- Stairs should be well-lit with switches at both the top and bottom of a stairway.
- Do not store anything on the steps – even temporarily.
- Do not place loose area rugs at the top or bottom of stairways.
- Install handrails on both sides of any stairway.

BATHROOMS

- Keep electric devices away from bathtubs and sinks.
- Keep towels and washcloths away from heaters.
- Install grab bars in bathrooms and elsewhere as needed.
- Install and/or use the exhaust fan when bathing or showering to avoid moisture build up.
- Install a non-slip mat or textured adhesive strips on the floor of your shower or bathtub.
- Modify your toilets, sinks and bathtubs as needed to make them easier and safer to use.
- Keep first aid supplies well stocked and easily accessible.

BEDROOMS

- Have a lamp or light switch with a dimmer feature that you can easily reach from bed.
- Keep hot plates, space heaters and other hot appliances away from bed.
- Keep a phone near the bed.
- Never place anything on top of a plugged-in electric blanket.
- Place nightlights in bedrooms and hallways to guide you in the dark.

BASEMENT/LAUNDRY ROOM

- Clean the clothes dryers' lint trap after each use.
- Make sure you never run the dryer when no one is home.
- Do not leave clutter on the floor – it is both a fire and a tripping hazard.
- Make sure the dryer vents outside with metal duct and unobstructed air flow.
- Make sure water heaters, furnaces and space heaters that produce carbon monoxide vent outside.