

Baby Proofing Your Home: The Ultimate Guide

Kitchen:

- ❑ **Install safety locks and latches on cabinets.** Locking cabinets and drawers keeps the baby away from harmful items such as knives and cleaning supplies and also prevents drawers from easily opening and sliding out of place.
- ❑ **Add a cover to the drains and garbage disposal.** It keeps tiny hands safe and unwanted objects out of the drain.
- ❑ **Install stove knob covers.** Many stove knobs are sensitive. The slightest touch could ignite the gas or even a flame.

Living/Family Room:

- ❑ **Install corner and edge bumpers.** Sharp coffee table corners could present a hazard for babies who are eager to pull up.
- ❑ **Make sure all cords are tucked out of sight.** Hide them in the wall or inside entertainment stand cabinets to prevent the baby from chewing on them.

Dining Room:

- ❑ **Remove tablecloths.** Unless your baby is a magician, a tug on a tablecloth could bring a table setting to the floor.

Bedrooms:

- ❑ **Anchor dressers to the wall.** Securing a dresser to the wall prevents it from tipping over.

Stairs:

- ❑ **Install safety gates.** A gate at the top of the stairs and at the bottom keeps your baby from climbing up and falling down.

Bathrooms:

- ❑ **Install safety locks and latches on cabinets.** Just like in the kitchen, locking cabinets and drawers keeps the baby away from harmful items and keeps your favorite lipstick out of reach.

Laundry Room:

- ❑ **Keep detergents out of reach.** They're often colorful and smell nice. For example, you wouldn't want the baby putting a laundry pod in his mouth.
- ❑ **Be sure all front load washer and dryer doors are closed tightly.** Just in case your little one decides to play a dangerous game of hide-and-seek.

Throughout the House:

- ❑ **Shorten/cut window-blind cords.** This reduces the chance of your child getting entangled.

- **Install safety guards on windows.** Keeps your baby safely in the house and tiny fingers from getting pinched.
- **Consider redecorating.** If you have many vases and trinkets that could potentially be hazardous if they tip over, you may want to consider a more baby-friendly décor for accessible areas.
- **Keep fragrance plugs out of sight.** Or completely remove them and utilize air fresheners that aren't within a baby's reach.
- **Cover outlets.** This keeps out tiny fingers and unwanted objects.
- **Use doorstops and door holders.** This prevents tiny fingers from being pinched in doors and hinges.
- **Use cordless phones.** While eliminating the chance that your baby can get tangled, you also have freedom to move around and keep an eye on your baby while you're on the phone.
- **Check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.** Test out detectors to make sure they're properly functioning.