

## Child Safety Checklists (Checklists are general guidelines only)

**A complete safety checklist does not exist. Raising your awareness about safety will help you make your home a safer place for your children. Home safety is a work in progress requiring constant adult supervision.**

### General Checklist Considerations:

(Check off when completed)

<b>Move items that can poison or cut</b> out of reach. Lockup items to prevent physical access. Discard items no longer used.	
<b>Test all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors monthly.</b>	
<b>GFCI outlets</b> with test buttons should be tested monthly. Replace outlets that fail to trip as they are possible hazards. Install GFCI outlets outside or anywhere within 6 feet of water.	
<b>Check fire extinguishers</b> for content, safety pin integrity and other physical damage.	
<b>Infant verses toddler safety.</b> A house that is considered safe for an infant may not be safe for a toddler. Readjust your mindset regarding safety and accessibility. Accidents can happen in a matter of seconds.	
<b>Continually educate yourself:</b> This newsletter does not covered choking hazards, dangerous toys, children's clothing hazards or first aid & CPR. For more information go to the "Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) <a href="http://www.cpsc.gov">www.cpsc.gov</a> The CPSC has a library of resources, videos, newsroom updates, etc. You can also report safety incidences and/or injuries.	

### Outside Checklist Considerations:

(Check off when completed)

<b>Test garage door safety reversing systems monthly</b> (Electric eye, if applicable, & pressure sensitivity) Electric reversing eyes should be no higher than 6 inches off garage floor. Garage doors can and do kill children & pets.	
<b>Watch for trip and slip hazards.</b> A settled/heaved sidewalk is often an unpredictable, uneven surface that creates a trip hazard. A settled sidewalk may pool water creating a slip hazard, especially during cold weather.	

### Inside Checklist (Most childhood accidents occur in the home):

(Check off when completed)

<b>Furniture design and use.</b> Watch out for sharp corners, heavy/sharp objects, and/or unsecured loose belongings with the potential for falling/crushing or suffocating a child. Relocate furniture away from stair railings. Children love to climb on furniture. They may use furniture to climb over stair railings with the potential to fall down the staircase.	
<b>Stairs &amp; deck</b> railings, guards and fall potential. Railing height of 36 inches, with maximum vertical baluster spacing of 4 inches is recommended. Recommend baby gates at top & bottom of staircase to prevent and/or slow down access to staircase.	
<b>Window safety.</b> Children falling out windows opened as little as 5 inches is possible and very common. Watch placement of furniture similar to furniture placement for stairs. Move/remove mini-blind cords to eliminate possible strangulation.	
<b>Bathrooms</b> should be made inaccessible. Children can drown in a few inches of water. A crawling infant will soon try to stand, often slipping. Install a non-skid bath mat & bump protection on faucet heads. Keep entry & cabinet doors closed and latched.	
<b>Kitchens and burns.</b> Prevent accidents by securing range to the wall. An open oven door makes a perfect step for a small child. A child's weight & step location can tip a stove over resulting in scalding and/or crushing injuries. A child's skin will burn four times quicker than an adult's. A water heater should be set no higher than 120 degrees Fahrenheit.	
<b>Wiring &amp; outlets</b> present special concerns for infants. Children may get caught in lamp cords and/or stick things into outlets. Install dummy plugs into unused outlets. Take the slack out and/or safely conceal/hide the wiring as best as possible.	
<b>Do a crawl-through in each room.</b> Crawl through each room of your home to see it from your child's perspective. Look under cabinets & furniture. A dropped pen or pencil can be a dangerous object to a infant or toddler.	
<b>Have a fire escape plan.</b> The plan should include shortest, quickest & safest method of exiting the building. Designate a place a safe distance away where everyone should meet. Depending on the # of stories, an escape ladder may be necessary.	

**Go to [phinspect.com](http://phinspect.com) and click "Contact Us" to inquire about our free child safety seminars.**