



## Child Safety Tips

Many homes and families will host children over the holidays, including grandchildren, friends and neighbors. Keep child safety in mind as you prepare your home for the holidays.

### Home Safety

- In homes with young children, install tamper resistant receptacles to prevent electrical shocks and burns or use safety covers on all unused outlets that are accessible to children.
- Place safety gates and the tops and bottoms of stairways.
- Move all cleaning products and other dangerous items out of reach of children and store them in a locked area
- Consider turning your water heater temperature down to 120 degrees Fahrenheit to reduce the risk of scalding.
- Put small items that could pose a choking hazard - like buttons, coins and jewelry – away if you if are hosting young children.
- Do not use space heaters in rooms where children are unsupervised.
- Read all toy labels and instructions before letting children play with them. Check to make sure the child meets the age requirements specified on the label.

### Decorating Safety

- Avoid putting Christmas tree lights, ornaments, metal hooks, and other small, “mouth sized” decorations near the ground or on the lower limbs of a tree where they may easily be reached by young children or pets.
- Never allow children or pets to play with electrical decorations.
- Keep matches, lighters, and candles out of the reach of children.
- In homes with small children, take special care to avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable.
- Keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children. Pieces could be swallowed or inhaled.
- Cover any unused outlets on extension cords with electrical tape or with plastic caps to prevent the chance of a child making contact with the live circuit.
- Place electrical cords out of the reach of small children.

### Cooking Safety

- If you are cooking on the stove or in the microwave, do not hold your child as you remove items from these appliances.
- Keep children at least 3 feet away from cooking appliances.
- Never leave a child unsupervised when an electric or gas stove is within reach.

Visit [www.holidaysafety.org](http://www.holidaysafety.org) for more tips and tools to help keep you safe this season.