

REMEMBER FIRE SAFETY WHEN CHILDPROOFING YOUR HOME

Young children face one of the highest risks of dying in a fire because they depend on others to get them out of a home quickly.

Consider these Statistics:

- Fires and burns are the leading cause of unintentional home injury deaths for children ages 1-4, and the second leading cause for infants under age 1. (Home Safety Council)
- Children under age 5 accounted for 48% of all home fire deaths and injuries in 2002. (US Fire Administration)
- On average, you have less than three minutes from the sound of the first smoke alarm to escape a home safely. (National Institute of Standards and Technology)

Steps to Take Now:

Begin practicing good fire safety before you bring baby home from the hospital, and incorporate it into your overall childproofing plan. Here are some simple steps:

- Install UL-listed smoke alarms on every floor and in living rooms, every bedroom, outside of sleeping areas and at the top and bottom of stairways. For optimal protection, install both photoelectric and ionization smoke alarms, which may provide the earliest opportunity of detecting either smoldering or fast flaming fires.
 - Interconnected smoke alarms link together so that when one alarm sounds, they all sound. This immediate response helps provide warning no matter where the fire starts, thereby giving families more time to escape.
 - A combination alarm offers protection against both fire and carbon monoxide (CO) in one unit. Look for one with voice warning, such as the Kidde Talking Alarm, which will clearly announce the hazard present, fire or CO.
- Test smoke alarms per manufacturers' instructions, and replace batteries as needed.
- Replace smoke alarms every 10 years. Alarms monitor the home every minute of every day and do not last forever. If you do not know the age of your smoke alarm, replace it.
- Do not disable a smoke alarm in nuisance situations. Do not "borrow" an alarm's batteries for other uses such as in toys or radios.
- Install a UL-listed CO alarm on every floor and in sleeping areas. The only safe way to detect this odorless, colorless, and invisible gas is with a working alarm.
- Keep a UL-listed fire extinguisher (minimum 2A-10B:C), such as the Kidde Living Area Fire Extinguisher, on each floor and in your bedroom. A fire extinguisher can help put out a small, contained fire.

Steps to Take as a Family:

- Develop and regularly practice a fire escape plan.
 - Include two exits from every room, and details such as who will assist young ones out of the home. An escape ladder can be an alternate exit from second or third floor rooms.
 - Practice your plan at least twice a year, both during the day and at night.
 - Keep a baby harness by your baby's crib. In an emergency, the harness, worn like a body brace, allows you to comfortably carry your baby while leaving your hands free to escape the home.

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- Close your children's bedroom doors. If a hallway fire occurs, a closed door could hinder smoke from overpowering your baby or toddler, and give firefighters extra time for rescue. Keep a working smoke alarm and baby monitor in the room so you can hear if the alarm sounds.
- Teach toddlers not to hide from firefighters. Remind them that firefighters are there to help.

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