



Every day you  
whisper a promise  
to your child, "I'll  
always love you  
and keep you safe."

But keeping your  
home and children  
safe takes more  
than promises.

It can only be  
done with safety  
**awareness,**  
planning and  
preventive action.

**F**ires and falls of all kinds are among  
the leading causes of injury and  
death in young children. While some  
falls occur from windows, it's important  
to realize that in a fire, a window can  
save a child's life. That is why windows  
play a critical role in home safety.

Fire is frightening. All too often, the bodies of young children are found after a fire in places where they tried to hide. Teach your children that they can't hide from fire: They must escape it. Decide on at least two emergency escape routes from your home. Windows provide one of the fastest, easiest alternative ways out of a burning home. Teach children how to safely escape through windows and take time to practice with them.

## Windows can serve as emergency escape routes.

Every family member should know how to operate the windows used for fire emergencies. Delays in escaping from a fire cost lives and increase injuries. Often paint, dirt or weathering can seal a window shut. Make sure yours open easily from the inside and are not blocked by furniture or other objects.

Remember that security bars, grilles and grates not only keep intruders out, they can also lock you in. The same holds true for window guards. Everyone should always be able to get out through a window without using tools, keys, special knowledge or effort.

## Window safety.

Preventing falls out of windows is as important as learning how to use one in an emergency. Unattended children run the greatest risk of falls and injuries, so the best first step is to watch your children as they play. Nothing can substitute for careful supervision.

When youngsters are around, close and lock your windows. If you need ventilation, open only windows they cannot reach. Be sure to keep furniture - or anything children can climb - away from windows. And teach your children not to play near windows.

Never depend on insect screens to prevent falls. Insect screens are designed to provide ventilation. They will not hold a child's weight against them.

Only solid information and proper preparations can help you keep the promise of safety you give to your loved ones. For more ways to protect your home and family please contact:

### National Fire Protection Association

Department of Public Education  
One Batterymarch Park  
Quincy, MA 02269-9101

### National Safety Council

1121 Spring Lake Drive  
Itasca, IL 60143-3201

This safety message brought to you by the National Safety Council and the membership of the American Architectural Manufacturers Association, the National Wood Window and Door Association, and the Screen Manufacturers Association.

# Window Safety Tips



Preventing falls out of windows is as important as learning how to use one in an emergency. Unattended children run the greatest risk of falls and injuries, so the best first step is to watch your children as they play. Nothing can substitute for careful supervision.

- 1.** Windows provide a secondary means of escape from a burning home. Determine your family's emergency escape plan and practice it. Remember that children may have to rely on a window to escape in a fire. Help them learn to safely use a window under these circumstances.
- 2.** When performing spring repairs, take care to make sure that your windows are not painted or nailed shut. You must be able to open them to escape in an emergency.
- 3.** Keep your windows closed and locked when children are around. When opening windows for ventilation, open windows that a child cannot reach.
- 4.** Set and enforce rules about keeping children's play away from windows or patio doors. Falling through the glass can be fatal or cause serious injury.
- 5.** Keep furniture — or anything children can climb — away from windows. Children may use such objects as a climbing aid.
- 6.** If you have young children in your home and are considering installing window guards or window fall prevention devices, be aware that the window guards you install must have a release mechanism so that they can be opened for escape in a fire emergency. Consult your local fire department or building code official to determine proper window guard placement.
- 7.** Some homes may have window guards, security bars, grilles or grates already covering their windows. Those windows are useless in an emergency if the devices on them do not have a functioning release mechanism. Time is critical when escaping a fire.
- 8.** Do not install window unit air conditioners in windows that may be needed for escape or rescue in an emergency. The air conditioning unit could block or impede escape through the window. Always be sure that you have at least one window in each sleeping and living area that meets escape and rescue requirements.
- 9.** The degree of injury sustained from a window fall can be affected by the surface on which the victim falls. Shrubs and soft edging like wood chips or grass beneath windows may lessen the impact if a fall does occur.



## Keeping Kids Safe from Home Falls

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A home may represent a haven of safety and security. But for young children, it can be also a minefield of potentially dangerous falls. The following tips from the National Safety Council will help make your home free of fall hazards.

### Falls from furniture

- Don't leave babies alone on beds, changing tables, or sofas.
- Always strap children into highchairs and strollers.

### Falls from heights

- Don't let children play alone on fire escapes, high porches or balconies.

### Slips and falls from floor surfaces

- Secure area rugs. Especially on wood, ceramic tile or linoleum floors, area rugs can cause anyone to slip. Secure them with a piece of foam carpet backing, double-sided tape or a rubber pad, available at many carpet and department stores.

### Falls on the stairs

- Keep stairs clear. Kids must spend as much time running up and down stairs as they do going in and out the back door. As it is, stairs figure in a large percentage of home falls. Combine a child's boundless, yet reckless, energy with a staircase full of junk, and you could end up taking an emergency trip to the hospital.
- Use safety gates if there are infants and toddlers in your home. At the top of the stairs, attach the gate to a wall. Avoid accordion gates with large openings—a child's neck can get trapped.

### Window falls

- Be aware of the danger of falls from windows by unsupervised young children. Keep your windows closed and locked when children are around. When opening windows for ventilation, open windows that a child cannot reach.
- Set and enforce rules about keeping children's play away from windows or patio doors. Falling through the glass can be fatal or cause serious injury.
- Keep furniture—or anything children can climb—away from windows. Children may use such objects as a climbing aid.



## Window Safety Tips

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- Windows provide a secondary means of escape from a burning home. Determine your family's emergency escape plan and practice it. Remember that children may have to rely on a window to escape in a fire. Help them learn to safely use a window under these circumstances.
- When performing spring repairs, make sure that your windows are not painted or nailed shut. You must be able to open them to escape in an emergency.
- Keep your windows closed and locked when children are around. When opening windows for ventilation, open windows that a child cannot reach, or in the case of a double-hung window, open the top sash only.
- Set and enforce rules about keeping children's play away from windows or patio doors. Falling through the glass can be fatal or cause serious injury.
- Keep furniture - or anything children can climb - away from windows. Children may use such objects as a climbing aid.
- If you have young children in your home and are considering installing window guards or window fall prevention devices, be aware that the window guards you install must have a release mechanism so that they can be opened for escape in a fire emergency. Consult your local fire department or building code official to determine proper window guard placement.
- Some homes may have window guards, security bars, grilles or grates already covering their windows. Those windows are useless in an emergency if the devices on them do not have a functioning release mechanism. Time is critical when escaping a fire.
- Do not install window air conditioners in windows that may be needed for escape or rescue in an emergency. The air conditioning unit could block or impede escape through the window. Always be sure that you have at least one window in each sleeping and living area that meets escape and rescue requirements.
- The degree of injury sustained from a window fall can be affected by the surface on which the victim falls. Shrubs and soft edging like wood chips or grass beneath windows may lessen the impact if a fall does occur.



Fire and Window Safety Awareness Form  
Family Housing  
Camp Pendleton, CA 92055

Safety is everyone's responsibility. Attached are safety tips and information. Please read and acknowledge receipt of the Fire and Window Safety Awareness brochure. Our Deluz and Lincoln Public Private Venture partners (PPV) do not provide window locks.

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Print Name

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Signature

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Date