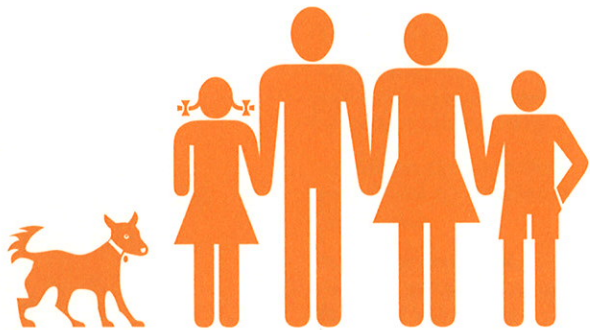


your
safety
starts at **home**



Follow these steps to keep your new home a safe environment for your family



planning a safer home



Did you know 45% of all injuries occur in and around the home? You can easily help make your new home a safer environment for your family.

Talk to your builder or building designer about including safety in the design of your new home.

outside your home

Make sure your home's street number is clearly identified for emergency vehicles to find you at times of urgent need.

Make sure your driveway, front path and front door allow clear and easy access.

All path surfaces should be even, firm and non slippery and gates wide enough to allow easy access (i.e. 1200mm).

All access areas must be well lit, increasing safety and security. Consider movement activated lights.

inside your home

Your home should be easy to tidy, easy to clean and easy to live in.

Use slip resistant flooring throughout the home.

Plan the positioning of lighting carefully (i.e. two-way control at top and bottom of stairs, make sure light switches are positioned within reach of family members, stairs are well lit and there are sufficient powerpoints).

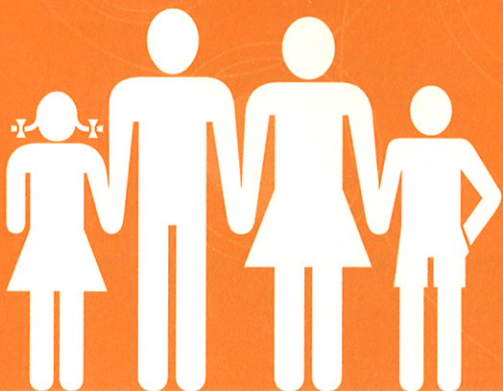
Design wider and non-obstructive hallways. Making it easier for the family to move around the home.

Think about using lever door handles instead of knobs - everyone will find them easier to open.

Make sure you have adequate storage space.

Design your kitchen, bathroom and laundry with safety foremost in mind, (i.e. install child resistant taps, step free shower, ensure the microwave oven, kettle, iron and other household items are out of children's reach).

Glass doors should be clearly marked so people can see if they are open or closed.



making your home child safe

Did you know about 500 children in Australia lose their lives each year as a result of injury in the home? The following tips will help make your home child safe.

poisons

Ask your builder to install a lockable medicine cupboard in either the bathroom or bedroom.

Know what poisons and medication you have and keep them in their original containers.

Lock away all poisons when not in use. While using them, close the container immediately and place up high, as a temporary safeguard. Get rid of poisons and medicines that you are not using on a regular basis.

Ask your builder to install child-resistant catches on cupboards where you store poisonous products (eg. kitchen and laundry).

Educate your children on the dangers of poisons.



finger jams

Ask your builder to use slow, self-closing springs on front and back doors, or use catches to keep them open.

Use chocks, wedges or catches to keep internal doors from slamming shut.

Be aware of the increased risk of slamming doors when both the front and back doors are open.

drowning

Always watch children near water.

Take your child with you if you must answer the phone during bath time.

Nappy buckets should have a firm lid and be stored up high.

Indoor spas should have a lockable door and be emptied immediately after use.

Outdoor spas and swimming pools must be fenced.

Cover garden ponds with fixed grill.



electrocution

Ask your electrician about electrical safety devices for your home.

Always unplug electrical appliances as you finish with them and put them out of reach and sight of children.

Don't use electric heaters in the bathroom - wall mounted types, placed up high are safer.

Use plug-in covers to stop children poking objects into powerpoints.

Do not use electric blankets with children younger than two, or those still bedwetting.

Remember that electricity, water and children are a dangerous mix.



burns and scalds

Ask your builder to install child resistant taps and mixing valves.

Ask your builder to install a fire extinguisher and a fire blanket in your kitchen.

Always watch children near barbeques and use heat beads rather than petrol etc.

Ask your builder to install smoke detectors throughout your home.

Dress children in low fire risk clothes.

Fill the bath with cold water first, add the hot water and then a little cold water to cool the tap.

falls

Use gate barriers to keep young children away from steps, stairs and balcony rails.

Use night lights if children are unable to reach light switches.



handy hints

Do a first aid course - you never know when you may need to save your own child's life. Also make sure you have an up to date first aid kit at home.

Get to know your neighbours - you never know when you may need their help.

Information sourced from Kidsafe NSW and NSW Government Department of Housing.

For further information, please contact the Sales and Information Centre or log on to Kidsafe NSW at www.kidsafensw.org

child safety outside the home

Keep children away from power tools, line trimmers and mowers especially while in operation.

Do not allow children to ride on or operate ride on mowers or be in close proximity when mowing the lawn.

Ensure garden chemicals are used correctly and stored and locked correctly out of the children's reach.

Make sure your shed or garage can be locked.

Check there are no drowning hazards and ensure pool fence and gate are well maintained.

Check play equipment is stable and in good condition. Also check there is a soft surface under the equipment to cushion falls.

Check all pathways are clear.

Keep trees/shrubs trimmed about children's eye level and plant child friendly plants.

Provide secure, shaded play areas allowing children to play out of direct sunlight.

Check the play area is separate from the driveway.

Always check and know where your children are when reversing your vehicle out of the driveway.

Ropes Crossing Sales and Information Centre
Nelsons Ridge Sales and Information Centre
Holroyd Gardens Sales and Information Centre

ph: 1800 182 211
ph: 1800 635 766
ph: 9637 8820



All information contained in this sheet was derived from various sources and was correct at time of printing. All information is provided in good faith and is advisory only. Printed on recycled and elemental chlorine free paper. March 2005.

Delfin
Creating Special Places