



How Safe is Your Home?

Deaths Due to Unintentional Home Injuries

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|------------------------------|--------|
| Poisoning..... | 11,200 |
| Falls..... | 9,000 |
| Fires, Flames and Smoke..... | 2,300 |
| Choking..... | 2,200 |
| Mechanical Suffocation..... | 1,000 |
| Drowning..... | 700 |

Source: *Injury Facts 2004 Edition*

These statistics aren't meant to scare you. They're meant to demonstrate that home safety should be a priority. A home is supposed to be a safe haven from an outside world filled with unknown dangers. Are you aware of the hidden dangers in your home? Don't let a false sense of security keep you from making your home the safest it can be. If you go room by room in your home, you're bound to find some potential hazards. Below are some dangers that might not be top of mind, but that you should be aware of.

Adult Bedroom Danger: Having a gap between the bed frame and the wall.

Why? Young children can crawl into this gap, get trapped, and accidentally suffocate.

Basement Danger: Not properly tagging your gas and water lines.

Why? In the event of an emergency, you don't want to have to guess, or take the time to figure out which is which, when one of these lines needs to be turned off.

Laundry Room Danger: Leaving your home with the clothes dryer on in mid-cycle.

Why? Clothes dryers pose a fire hazard, especially if they're not properly maintained. Use a dryer with a lint filter and remove the collected lint after each use. Do not leave your clothes dryer running if you plan to leave your home.

Garage Danger: Starting a car, or any gasoline-powered engine, with the garage door closed.

Why? Letting an engine run in an enclosed space, even for a short period of time, can cause carbon monoxide poisoning.

Kitchen Danger: Wearing loose-fitting clothing around the stove.

Why? Long and hanging sleeves can catch fire or get caught on the handles of your cookware.

It's important to have a home safety checklist and review it on a regular basis. The National Safety Council, along with Liberty Mutual, has created a resource to walk you through the hazards in each room of your home. This Home Safety CD-ROM (product # 19844-7000) is available for free; just pay the cost of shipping and handling (\$9.95). Take advantage of this resource and make your home a safe haven. To order your free copy of the Home Safety CD-ROM, please call Customer Relations at (800) 621-7619.

Source: Home Safety: Make Your Home a Safe Haven. 2003. A program sponsored by the National Safety Council and Liberty Mutual.

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