



# Childproofing Your Home

The legal definition of “child-resistant” is that it takes more than five minutes for 80 percent of 5-year-olds to open a product container. That means 20 percent of 5-year-olds can open it in less time. Children are very inventive and love to figure things out. Just a few minutes alone with any hazardous material can be dangerous for your child.

## Poison Prevention

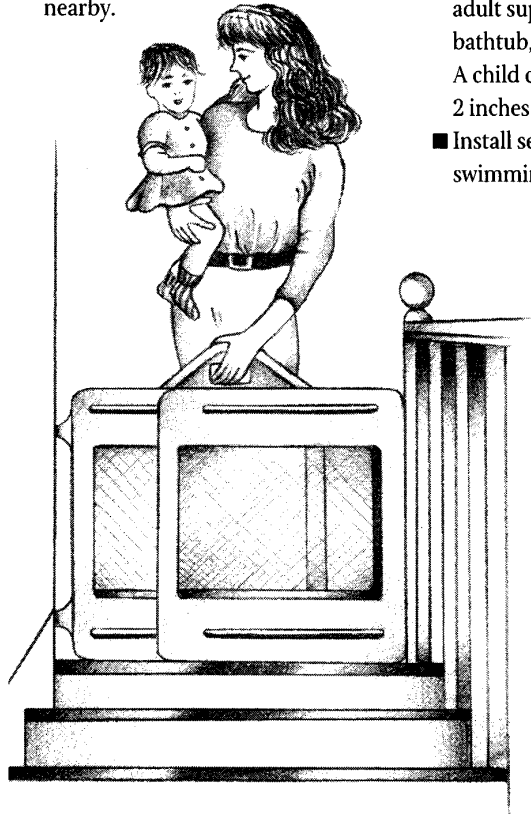
- Keep all chemicals, medicines and household products in their original containers and locked away from children.
- Never leave a child alone with hazardous items, even to just answer the phone.
- Always close containers tightly when you're done using them.
- Know which of your house plants are poisonous and keep them out of reach.
- Keep all medicines out of sight of children.
- Never keep medicines in a night stand, on a counter top or in any place a child can reach.
- Cough syrups, after-shave and colognes all contain alcohol and are potentially lethal to children.
- Keep your local poison control phone number handy.
- Never call medicines “candy” or “juice.”

## Storing Medicines and Other Hazardous Materials

Storing cleaning supplies and medications under the sink and in the bathroom medicine cabinet is not safe. Medicines should never be kept in the medicine cabinet, because the change in temperature and humidity can decompose them and cause unsafe chemical changes. All medications and cleaning supplies should be stored in a locked cabinet away from little hands.

## Prevent Burns and Scalds

- Set your water heater to the lowest setting (120° to 125° F) so scalding can't occur.
- On the stove, always turn pan handles inward but not over another burner. Use back burners.
- Teach your child not to reach up to the stove or to touch an iron.
- Put barriers around fireplaces and heaters.
- Keep curling irons and clothes irons out of reach.
- Never open an oven when a child is nearby.



## Physical Safety

- Install outlet guards on all electrical outlets.
- Keep live extension cord ends out of reach.
- Avoid leaving out electrical appliances in the bathroom.
- Keep drapery cords high out of the reach of small children.
- Avoid putting your child's bed under a window.
- Avoid toy chests with lids that can fall on your child.
- Never leave a small child without adult supervision near a pool, bathtub, toilet or water bucket. A child can drown in as little as 2 inches of water.
- Install security fences around swimming pools and hot tubs.

*Use child barriers to keep small children off stairs, windowsills and other hazardous areas.*