



# ***Maintaining the Home***

## ***Child–Proofing Your Home***

# ***Maintaining the Home: Child–Proofing Your Home***

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The safety of family, home and belongings is critical to all of us. Being prepared and alert can save time, injury and possibly your life. Here are some things to do to help keep your family safe around your home:

- Store medications and small items such as jewelry and coins where toddlers can't reach them. Be alert for items that would stick in a child's throat.
- Lock unloaded guns in a secure place and store guns and bullets in separate places. Do not let children see where you hide the gun or bullets.
- Put razors, cosmetics and other health and beauty items out of reach.
- Do not leave hair dryers, curling irons or other grooming appliances out after use.
- Install child safety latches on cabinets and drawers.
- Do not store prescription drugs in the bathroom. Instead, find a cool, dry spot in the house that is out of the reach of children and check for childproof safety caps for medications.
- Set your water heater temperature at 120 degrees or lower to prevent burns and scalds.
- Turn pot handles away from the edge of the stove.
- Store cleaners and chemicals in their original containers in places where children can't get to them. Never store them under the sink, even if protected by safety latches.
- Keep knives and other sharp objects out of children's reach.
- Tuck away cords of electrical appliances so that small children cannot grab them.
- Replace electrical cords that are frayed or cracked or that become hot. Do not overload outlets and extension cords. Never run electrical cords under rugs.
- Put safety caps in all unused electrical outlets.
- Place house plants out of reach of children. Some are poisonous if eaten and others could injure your child if a heavy pot fell on him/her.
- Secure bookcases to the walls to prevent toddlers from pulling the cases over.
- Keep tools and garden chemicals out of children's reach.

This material was adapted from publications produced by the National Association of Home Builders. NAHB information can be found on the Web at <http://www.nahb.org>.

*This resource is one in a series on **Maintaining the Home** which include:*

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### **Interior Maintenance**

Preventive Home Maintenance Checkup  
Make a Basic Toolkit for Simple Home Repairs  
Selection and Use of Home Cleaning Products  
Discovering the Secrets of Successful Storage

### **Heating**

Furnace Care  
Fireplace and Chimney Care

### **Cooling**

Evaporative Cooler  
Air Conditioner  
Ceiling Fans

### **Plumbing**

Fixing Plugged Sink Drains  
How to Unclog a Toilet  
Repairing Dripping Faucets

### **Electrical**

How to Set or Reset a Circuit Breaker  
How to Replace a Fuse

### **Appliances**

How to Buy an Energy Efficient Home Appliance  
Choosing a Water Heater

#### **Maintenance:**

Dishwasher Care and Dishwasher Cleaning  
Dryer Care and Dryer Cleaning  
Freezer Care and Freezer Cleaning  
Garbage Disposal Care and Cleaning  
Range and Oven Care and Range Cleaning  
Refrigerator Care and Refrigerator Cleaning  
Small Electrical Appliance Care and Cleaning  
Washer Care and Cleaning

### **Flooring**

Buying new carpet  
Carpet Care and Cleaning  
Wood Floors Care and Cleaning  
Ceramic Tile Floors Care and Cleaning  
Vinyl Floor Coverings Care and Cleaning

### **Walls**

Selecting and Applying Paint  
Wallpaper Selection and Cleaning  
Repairing Walls

### **Furniture**

Furnishing Your New Home: Color and Design  
Selecting Fabric For Home Furnishings

### **Exterior Maintenance**

#### **Home Exterior**

Foundations, Basements and Yards  
Exterior Walls, Windows, and Doors

#### **Roof**

A Guide To Roofs  
Roof Maintenance

#### **Landscaping and Lawn Care**

Principles of Xeriscape  
Watering Your Lawn

### **Home Safety**

Child-Proofing Your Home  
Is Your Home Safe From Fire Hazards?  
Smoke Alarms Save Lives  
Carbon Monoxide Alarms  
Are Your Children Safe From Poisons?  
Protecting Yourself Against Burglary

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## Conservation

Weatherize Your Home  
Easy Tips to Save Money and the Planet  
How to Stop Air Leaks Around Windows  
Energy-Efficient Heating and Cooling  
Indoor Water Conservation Tips  
Outdoor Water Conservation Tips

## Environment Issues

Green Building  
Reduce-Reuse-Recycle: Alternatives for Waste Management  
Create a home recycling center  
Healthy Indoor Air for New Mexico Homes  
Dealing with Mold  
Household Hazardous Waste  
Hazardous Household Substances: Alternatives That Are Relatively Free of Toxic Effects  
Radon

## Pest Control

Cockroaches and Their Control  
Southwest Insects

## Accessible Living

Update your home for a lifetime of living  
Vision Loss & Hearing Loss  
Hand Dexterity, Strength and Range of Motion  
Cognitive Difficulties  
Mobility Impairments, Balance and Coordination

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