

Make your Home Safe for the Baby



Babies learn quickly in their first year. For new parents, it's a pleasant surprise to see how soon they begin moving and exploring. But turn your back for a moment, and the infant who was squirming helplessly on a blanket is suddenly crawling across the room at high speeds.

Children are naturally curious. Tasting, touching and feeling are how infants and toddlers learn about the world around them. Take a moment to look at your surroundings from a youngster's point of view. Then make any necessary adjustments to baby-proof your home. These tips can help you:

Before you bring baby home:

- Check the safety & standards of your baby's crib and other baby items.
- Remove pillows, blankets, and stuffed animals from the crib to prevent your baby from suffocation.
- Put emergency numbers, including Doctors, friends, Neighbors near phone.
- Make sure your home or apartment number is easy to see so fire or rescue can locate you quickly in an emergency.
- Make sure handrails are installed and secure in stairways. Always hold the handrail when using stairs, especially when holding your baby.

Your baby will be crawling before you know it. Most babies begin crawling around six to nine months. Crawling on your hands and knees will reveal many dangers to your baby. Here are some things to do before your baby is crawling:

- Cover all unused electrical sockets with outlet plugs.
- Keep chords out of baby's reach. Tighten chords to vertical blinds and move furniture, lamps, or electronics to hide chords.
- Secure furniture and electronics, such as bookcases and TVs, so they cannot be pulled down on top of your baby.
- Use protective padding to cover sharp edges and corners, such as a table.
- Install safety gates at the bottom & top of stairs or to block entry to unsafe rooms.
- Use safety latches on cabinets and doors.
- Store all medicines, cleaning products, and other poisons out of baby's reach.
- Look for and remove all small objects.
- Keep houseplants out of baby's reach. Some plants can poison/make your baby sick.
- Closely supervise your baby around a family pet. Pets need time to adjust to a new baby.