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home hazard hunter



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it's a fact...

- More accidents occur in the home than in industry!
- Each year over 4,400,000 Americans are injured in home accidents, and 28,500 die from home accidents!

Incredible? Yes. But even more incredible is the fact that most of

THESE ACCIDENTS COULD HAVE BEEN PREVENTED

if those concerned had been aware of unsafe conditions and unsafe practices in their homes, and corrected them.

How safe is your home? This checklist may alert you to unsafe conditions lurking in your home. Why not go on a hazard hunt? It's quick, easy . . . and may help keep you from falling prey to a tragic accident in your home.

If you have fewer than 10 "No" answers, your home is reasonably safe. You're asking for trouble if you have 10 to 25 "No" answers, and you'd better do something about it . . . NOW! If you have more than 25 "No" answers, make sure your insurance premiums are up to date.

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KITCHEN

Do you . . .	YES	NO
1. Use nonskid wax on your floors?		
2. Have stove and sink areas well-lighted?		
3. Turn pot handles away from stove front, but not over another burner?		
4. Wipe up spills immediately?		
5. Open oven door before turning on gas to light it manually?		
6. Follow directions when using your pressure cooker?		
7. Have a rack or compartmented tray for sharp knives?		
8. Keep electric appliances away from sink area and make sure your hands are dry before operating them?		
9. Have at least two hot dish holders near the stove?		
10. Have metal containers for waste paper and cans?		
11. Use a step stool when reaching into high cupboards?		
12. Clean range exhaust hood and duct frequently?		
13. Have emergency phone numbers handy to your telephone (police, fire, doctor, utilities)?		

LIVING, DINING, BEDROOM

Do you . . .	YES	NO
1. Have nonskid backing on small rugs, and avoid use at top of stairs?		
2. Keep traffic areas and exits clear of furniture and obstructions?		
3. Use a screen in front of your fireplace?		
4. Have plenty of wall outlets for lamps and appliances, avoid octopus connections?		
5. Have lamp within reach of bed?		

GARAGE AND DRIVEWAY

Do you . . .	YES	NO
1. Have your garage in order—tools in place, floor clean, flammable liquids stored in safety cans?		
2. Have your garage well-lighted with switches at doors?		
3. Set "Park" or hand brake and lock car when you leave it outside?		
4. Check area around car before backing?		

WORKSHOP

Do you . . .	YES	NO
1. Keep paint thinners and solvents in metal cans?		
2. Keep power tools disconnected or switches locked when not in use?		
3. Store oily rags in air-tight metal cans?		
4. Keep tools out of the reach of small children?		
5. Have workshop well-ventilated and work areas well-lighted?		
6. Have a dry-powder, carbon dioxide or all-purpose fire extinguisher handy?		
7. Ground power tools before using them?		
8. Use safety glasses?		
9. Keep power tool guards in place?		



BATHROOM

Do you . . .	YES	NO
1. Have nonskid mats or textured surfaces in tubs and showers?		
2. Have a sturdy grab bar for your tub or shower?		
3. Have medicines clearly labeled and read the label before taking any medicine?		
4. Keep medicines stored safely out of the reach of small children?		
5. Dry your hands before using electrical appliances—and never operate them when you're in the bathtub?		
6. Avoid using hair sprays near open flame or when smoking?		

STAIRWAYS

Do you . . .	YES	NO
1. Have sturdy handrails for outside steps and inside closed stairways?		
2. Have attic stairs well-lighted?		
3. Have sturdy bannisters on open stairs and stairwells?		
4. Keep children's toys off stairs?		
5. Avoid using stairways for storage areas?		
6. Have stairs well-lighted with switches at top and bottom?		
7. Keep treads, nosing and carpeting in good repair?		

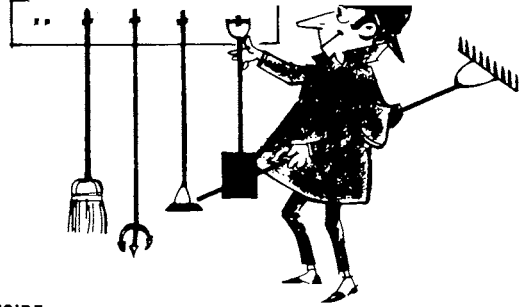


STORAGE AREAS

Do you . . .	YES	NO
1. Avoid using your basement, attic or utility room for a "dumping ground," especially for combustible materials?		
2. Have attic floored if used for storage?		
3. Keep rubbish and waste paper in metal containers?		

BASEMENT OR UTILITY ROOM

Do you . . .	YES	NO
1. Know where your main gas and water valves are located and how to close them?		
2. Have gas and water lines distinctly tagged so they can be quickly identified?		
3. Know how to light the pilot light on your furnace and water heater?		
4. Have your gas dryer vented to the outside (if designed for outside venting)?		
5. Call the gas company if you suspect a leaky valve or pipe?		
6. Know where your main electrical switch is and how to turn it off?		
7. Have extra fuses on hand and pull the main switch before changing a fuse?		
8. Determine what has caused a fuse to blow and eliminate the cause before replacing the fuse?		
9. Know the maximum load each of your electrical circuits can safely carry and avoid overloading them?		
10. Have fuses or circuit breakers labeled to identify outlets and fixtures they protect?		
11. Keep combustibles away from hot light bulbs?		
12. Have a 20 ampere line to safely carry the heavy load needed to operate kitchen appliances such as electric grills, waffle irons, rotisseries?		
13. Have washer and dryer electrically grounded?		
14. Have a metal ironing board or an asbestos pad for a wooden one?		
15. Keep cleaning fluids, drain openers, ammonia and similar items locked up or out of the reach of small children?		



OUTSIDE

Do you . . .	YES	NO
1. Return garden tools to their storage racks after use?		
2. Get help for heavy or difficult jobs?		
3. Limit the time you work in the hot sun (severe sunburn or sunstroke is serious business)?		
4. Keep children and pets a safe distance away while operating your power mower?		
5. Shut off the mower when cleaning, adjusting or emptying grass catcher, and never refuel when motor is hot?		
6. Use charcoal lighter fluid to light your outdoor grill (never gasoline)?		
7. Keep ladders in good shape—replace loose rungs, worn ladder shoes, frayed ropes on extension ladders?		
8. Use extra care putting up screens or storm windows when you're on a ladder, especially in windy weather?		
9. Keep your trash burner covered when using it?		
10. Repair broken walks and driveways?		
11. Have clotheslines high enough to clear pedestrian traffic?		
12. Have your television antenna grounded?		



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