

Pointers For Parents

Creating A Safer Home Environment For Your Children

(NAPSA)—Having small children in your home means appropriate measures need to be taken to ensure they grow up in a safe environment. While childproofing different areas of your home such as cabinets and electrical sockets, don't forget to review your window coverings. Access to windows and dangling window covering cords can pose a safety hazard to curious children and even small pets.

“Although nothing replaces the watchful eye of a loving parent, there are certain steps you can take to reduce the risk of injury around windows,” said Tracy Christman, window coverings expert and Vice President of Vendor Alliance at Budget Blinds. “Window safety is often overlooked and it's important for parents to be fully aware of all the potential dangers.”

Tracy offers the following useful tips to help parents get started:

1. Arrange furniture away from windows. Always set up furniture—such as cribs, chairs and toy chests—away from window areas so that they cannot be used to access window treatment cords. In addition to installing window screens, placing furniture away from the window area also minimizes the risk of the child accidentally falling out of an open window.

2. Choose cordless window coverings. The Window Covering Safety Council recommends cordless window treatments in homes where children are present. Shutters and roller shades are inherently cordless and come in a wide variety of playful colors for your children's rooms. You can also select cordless cellular shades that provide insulation to



Motorized window coverings are convenient and can increase safety by eliminating cords.

help keep your kids warm in the winter.

3. Add safety features to existing window covering cords. It's sometimes easier to add safety features to existing window covering cords than to purchase new treatments altogether. Options include break-away tassels that are designed to break apart under minimal stress, and cord cleats, which allow you to safely tie cords up and away from your toddler's reach.

A growing trend in the window coverings industry is motorization. Motorized window coverings provide convenience since they can be opened and closed using a handheld remote and also increase safety by eliminating the need for cords. Virtually any window covering can be motorized.

For more information on window covering safety, visit www.budgetblinds.com/safety or call (866) 590-6341. Budget Blinds offers free in-home consultations and its products meet or exceed the American National Standard for Safety of Corded Window Covering Products set forth by the Window Covering Manufacturers Association.