

SAFETY SENSE

Simple Home Safety Tips

(NAPSA)—Following a few practical and easy safety measures can eliminate “danger zones” around the home. Use this checklist to help find and address common problem areas and ensure your home is safe for the entire family.

- **Cover up the holes.** Insert electrical covers in all unoccupied outlets and cover and secure all loose plugs and electrical wires, getting them out of the way.

- **Keep out.** Install baby gates to block stairways and other unsafe areas and make sure to comply with all of the gate’s directions.

- **Stay off the countertops.** Have step-stools readily available in the bathroom and kitchen where grown-ups and little ones may need to reach for something.

- **Put it within your reach.** Get suction cup organizers, such as the ones from Duck brand, that allow you to store things like soap, shampoo bottles, razors, kitchen supplies, sponges, etc. at a height convenient to your family’s needs.

- **Get a grip.** If your children are just learning to walk, especially on linoleum or hard wood floors, give them socks for better traction on slippery surfaces. Socks with grippers are also available for older children and adults.

- **Be Prepared.** Prepare first aid kits and make their location known. Have one in each car and at least one in the main bathroom.

- **Don’t slip.** Place bath mats in the bathtubs and showers. Duck brand’s Software Bath Mat



(www.duckproducts.com or call 1-800-321-0253) provides comfort and ease while encouraging safety. The mats are also machine-washable.

- **Don’t trip.** Use carpet tape on area and throw rugs to prevent tripping and sliding.

- **Hold on tight.** Frequently check handrails in stairways to make sure they’re stable.

- **Leave the light on.** Place nightlights in hallways, bathrooms and other areas you may need to access in the dark.

- **Make a list and check it twice.** Make a list of emergency phone numbers and post them clearly on the refrigerator or close to the phone. Include close family members or friends to make these numbers readily available to the entire family in case of emergency.

- **Sleep tight.** If your child has recently moved to an adult bed or bunk bed, be sure to use bed rails to prevent falling.

- **Make it a family affair.** Hold annual or biannual fire drills for the entire family, developing strategic escape routes from each room within the home.