

10 IMPORTANT TIPS to remember for backyard and pool safety



Pool & Deck Safety

- 1 Make sure all pedestrian gates in the barrier fence for your pool are self-closing and self-latching. Other gates should be padlocked.
- 2 Remove all chairs, tables, large toys or other objects that would allow a child to climb up to reach the gate latch or enable the child to climb over the pool isolation fence.
- 3 Reaching and throwing aids like poles should be kept on both sides of the pool. These items should remain stationary and not be misplaced through play activities.
- 4 All pool and hot tub drains (suction outlets) must have a cover or grate that meets industry standards for suction fittings marked to indicate compliance with ANSI/ASME A112.19.8 2007 or the successor standard ANSI/APSP-16 2011. Check to see that these covers are not broken or in disrepair, and that they are anchored firmly over the drain openings. The pool shall be closed immediately when broken, missing or noncompliant suction outlet drain covers are first noticed.
- 5 Install a pool alarm to detect accidental or unauthorized entrance into the water. While the alarm provides an immediate warning, it is not a substitute for the barrier fences, door alarms and safety covers required by the code.
- 6 Install either an automatic or manually operated, approved safety cover to completely block access to water in the pool, spa or hot tub. The covers shall comply with ASTM F1345. Never allow anyone to stand or play on a pool cover.
- 7 Check for warning signs of an unsafe deck, including loose or wobbly railings or support beams, missing or loose screws that connect a deck to the house, corrosion, rot and cracks.

Grill Safety

- 8 Place the barbeque grill away from siding, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches. Do not use grills in a garage, porch or enclosed area that could trap carbon monoxide. Never grill on top of anything that can easily burn.
- 9 When grilling, have a fire extinguisher, a garden hose or several 4 gallons of water close by in case of a fire.
- 10 Keep children away from grills when in use. Establish a safety zone around the grill and instruct the children to remain outside of the zone. A chalk line works great for this purpose. Never leave the grill unattended.

Source: ABC Pool Safety (www.abcpoolsafety.org/)

SAFETY TIPS

From Your Building Inspector

The Sound of Safety

What is the most important thing to remember when installing a smoke alarm or carbon monoxide alarm?

Location, location, location!

Smoke Alarm Safety:

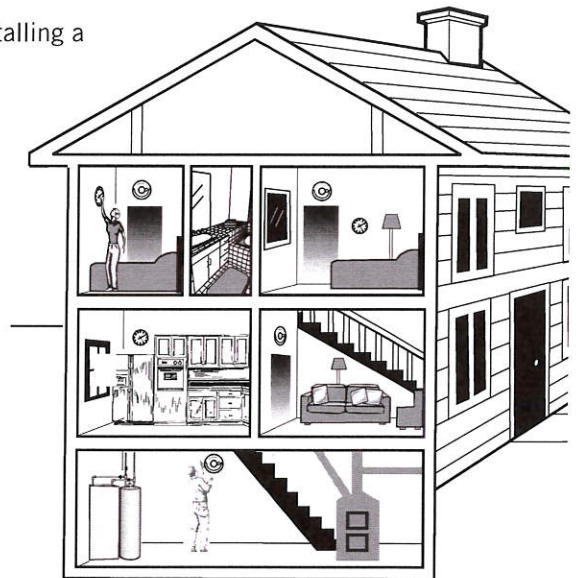
- Install at least one smoke alarm in every bedroom, outside of each sleeping room area and on each level of a multi-level building.
- Test each smoke alarm regularly.
- Keep batteries fresh by replacing them annually.
- Check the manufacturer date on your smoke alarm. Consider replacing if it is over 10 years old.

Smoke alarms can't help you unless they are functional and you can hear them. Building safety codes require smoke alarms. Contact your local building safety department for more information.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarm Safety:

- Consider installing a CO alarm in the hallway outside of each sleeping room area.
- Test each CO alarm regularly in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Permanently wired or plug-in CO alarms should have a battery backup. Keep batteries fresh by replacing them annually.

CO alarms can't help you unless they are functional and you can hear them. Building safety codes require CO alarms in all dwelling units that contain a fuel-fired appliance and dwelling units that have an attached garage. Contact your local building safety department for more information.



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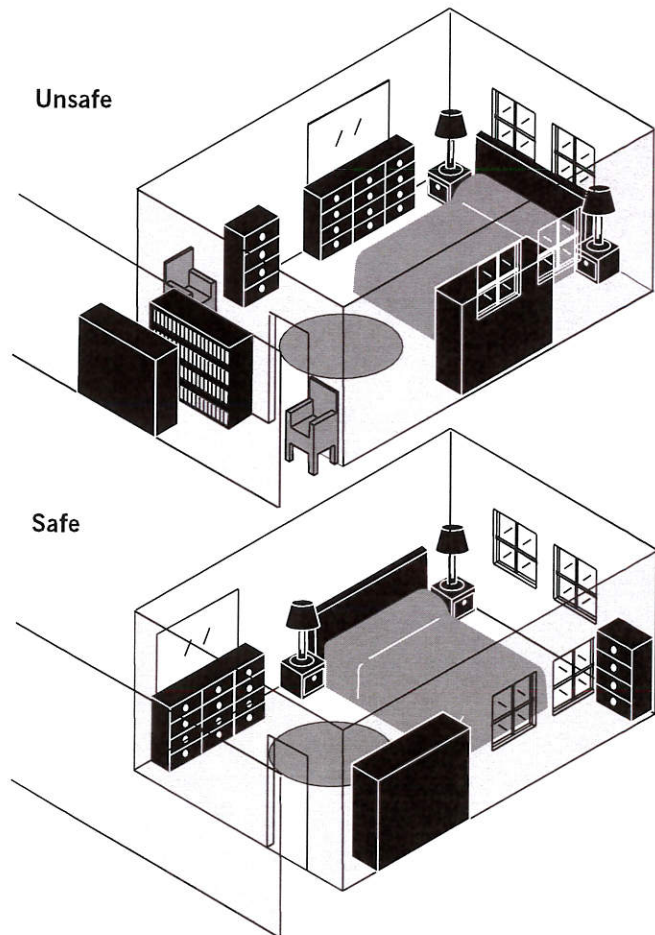
Make a Safe Exit

During a home emergency, such as a fire, it's important that all occupants are able to get out—and emergency personnel are able to get in—as quickly and easily as possible.

Safe Exit Paths and Passages:

- Keep hallways clear of obstructions.
- Do not block or obstruct emergency escape windows and exit doors.
- Make sure all family members know how to unlock and open windows and doors.
- Be sure window security bars release from the inside in case of emergency.
- Develop and practice a fire escape plan.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, it takes less than 30 seconds for a small flame to burn completely out of control and turn into a major fire. Within minutes, a house can fill with thick, black smoke and become engulfed in flames. Building safety codes designate minimum window and hallway sizes to allow occupants to get out in case of emergency, and provide access for first responders to get in. Contact your local building safety department for more information.



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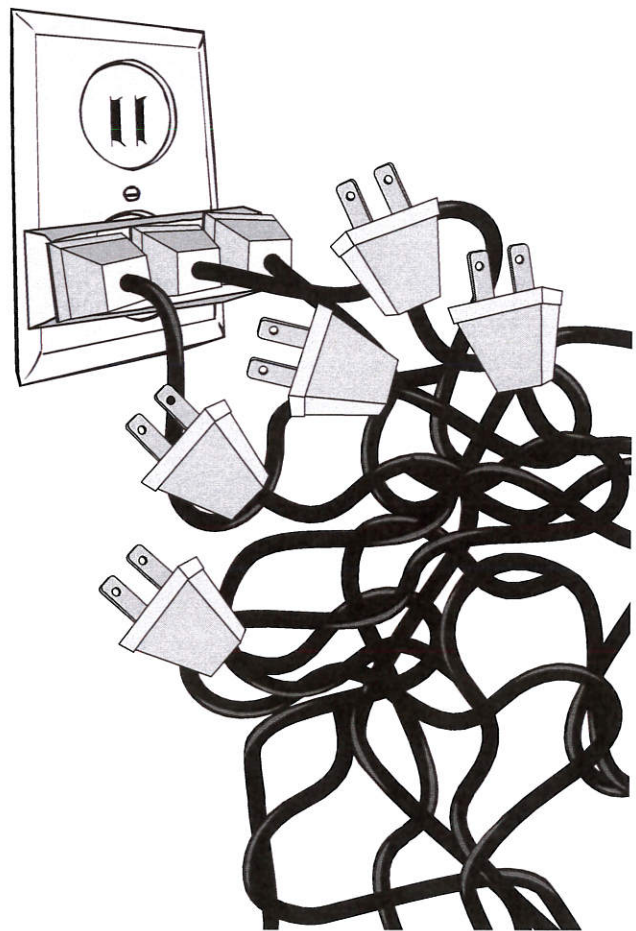
Don't Let Electrical Cords Create a Danger in Your House!

Overloaded receptacle outlets and undersized electrical extension cords can cause a fire or electrocution danger.

Use Electrical Cords Safely:

- Never overload electrical cords or power strips. Electrical cords and power strips have a designated load capacity. Be sure the total amount of energy used by appliances and lights plugged into the cord or strip does not exceed that capacity.
- Use only listed power strips that have integral overload protection and have been tested by a product safety laboratory.
- Don't use appliances that have damaged cords.
- Extension cords should not be used as a substitute for permanently wired receptacle outlets.

Electrical cords must be the proper wire size for the load they serve. Overloaded cords will become hot and can start a fire. Avoid permanent use of extension cords. Appliance cords and extension cords are susceptible to physical damage from foot traffic, furniture, house pets, swinging doors and many other causes so protect them from damage. Contact your local building safety department for more information.



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