

Fires and falls of all kinds are among the leading causes of injury and death in young children.

While some falls occur from windows, it is important to realise that in the event of a fire, a window can also save a child's life. This is why windows play a critical role in home safety.



window **safety** checklist



- ✓ **Has your family determined an emergency fire escape plan?**

Determine your family's emergency escape plan and practice it regularly. In the plan, include two avenues of escape from every room. Remember children may have to rely on a window to escape a fire. Help them learn to safely use a window under these circumstances. Make sure you have identified a safe meeting place outside.
- ✓ **Do you keep windows shut when children are around?**

You should keep your windows closed and locked when children are around. When opening windows for ventilation, open windows that children cannot reach or those with restrictors fitted. Also, set and enforce rules about keeping children's play away from windows and/or glazed doors. Falling through the glass can be fatal or cause a serious injury.
- ✓ **Do you leave, or have you left, windows open because you thought the insect screen provided a safeguard from a fall?**

Don't rely on insect screens to prevent a fall. Insect screens are designed to provide ventilation while keeping insects out; they are not designed to, nor will they prevent a child's fall from a window.
- ✓ **Is there furniture placed under or near windows in your home?**

Keep furniture — or anything children can climb — **away from** windows. Children may use such objects as a climbing aid.
- ✓ **Are your windows fitted with key locks, vent locks or dead locks?**

Make sure that keys to all locked or restricted windows and doors are accessible in case of emergency. Each and every window and door must be able to be opened quickly when required.
- ✓ **Inspect your home's windows carefully. Are any windows in your home painted or nailed shut?**

Never paint or nail windows shut. You should be able to open them to escape in an emergency.
- ✓ **Did you know that strategic landscaping may lessen the extent of injury sustained in the event fall does occur?**

Plant shrubs and soft edging like wood chips or grass under windows to cushion potential falls. The surface can greatly affect the degree of injury sustained from a fall.