

# “Keep Baby Safe” Checklist



The New York State Consumer Protection Board (CPB) congratulates you on becoming a parent. While raising a child is one of the most wonderful and fulfilling experiences, it comes with a great deal of responsibility for parents and other care givers. Even with the best of intentions it is possible to overlook consumer products in your household that seem safe but could jeopardize your baby’s health and safety. Therefore, the CPB is pleased to provide you with this list of tips to help you keep your child safe through all stages of development by identifying possible hazards in your home.

## Mattresses and Babies Can Be a Dangerous Combination:

- ✓ Remember that infants, when placed on an adult bed of any size, can roll into the space between the wall and the mattress and suffocate.
- ✓ Make sure all crib mattresses fit snugly into the crib frame so that there is no gap in which the baby can become wedged.
- ✓ Use the two finger rule. If two adult fingers can be placed between the mattress and the crib, the mattress should be replaced immediately.



## Soft Surfaces and Bedding Can Cause Suffocation:



- ✓ Do not place an infant or young baby unsupervised on top of soft surfaces such as sofas, large soft toys, cushions, pillows, water beds, blankets, quilts or comforters as their face can become immersed. This can cause suffocation.
- ✓ Remove all soft bedding, toys and pillows from your child’s crib when they are sleeping to reduce the risk of suffocation. Look for breathable bumpers which are available at most baby stores.

## Bathing Your Baby:

- ✓ Do not leave your baby unattended in a baby bathtub or bath seat. It only takes a second for a child to slip under water and drown. While very handy, a bath seat is a bathing aid, not a safety device.

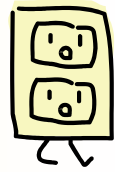


## Safety Gates Can Save Lives:

- ✓ Use child safety gates at the top and bottom of all staircases and be sure they are installed correctly.
- ✓ Avoid accordion style safety gates with large openings in which a child could fit their head through and suffocate.

## Protect Your Child from Electrical Hazards:

- ✓ Use safety caps to cover all unused electrical outlets to prevent babies and toddlers from putting their small fingers or toys in the sockets and becoming shocked or electrocuted.
- ✓ Keep all electrical cords and wires out of a baby's or toddler's reach so they cannot pull, trip or chew on them.



## Be Cautious of Window Blind Cords and Wires:



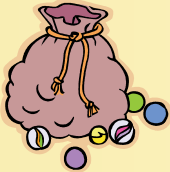
- ✓ Make sure that window blind cords are out of reach of small children to prevent them from accidentally strangling themselves with the cord loops.

## Make Sure Chemicals are Stored Safely:

- ✓ Install safety latches on all cupboards that are reachable by your baby or toddler to keep them away from consumer products that are unsafe.
- ✓ Put all dangerous chemicals up high and out of reach of your small child in the event that you forget to lock a safety latch or it breaks.



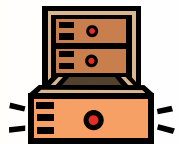
## Be Careful of Small Toy Parts:



- ✓ Be careful not to have a baby or toddler play with toy parts that are smaller than the child's mouth to avoid possible choking.
- ✓ Test small toys and parts of toys with a small pass testing tube (available at many toy stores) or a toilet paper tube. If a toy or part fits inside the tube, a child can choke on it.

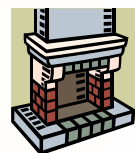
## Supervise Children and Toddlers Around Furniture:

- ✓ Make sure young children do not play near furniture. Because children will often climb on a lower drawer, the furniture can tip over hurting or killing them.
- ✓ Install latches on lower drawers of furniture to ensure that they cannot be opened by young children. Secure bookcases, shelving, and heavy furniture to walls with brackets and anchors. When storing items, put heavier items on bottom shelves and in bottom drawers.
- ✓ Use broad-based carts for TV's and appliances as large items can topple off stands and fall on children. Secure carts and appliances to walls and avoid using pedestal tables to hold heavy items.



## Softening Sharp Edges and Corners:

- ✓ Cover sharp corners of furniture and fireplace hearths with soft bumpers that fit snugly to help prevent and soften injuries from falls by your toddler.



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