

# Safety Alert: Small things

*Child safety isn't just about locks, gates and latches*  
It's important to make sure kids can't pick up anything left around your home.



While locks, latches, safety gates and other similar items are the primary items many of us consider when we talk about childproofing a house, there's a lot more to it than adding accessories here and there. One of the more basic aspects is keeping your home clean – and, most importantly, making sure that certain things aren't left around the house for your little ones to accidentally stand on, play with, or eat. This newsletter will talk about the 'little things' in life – literally.

Adding safety items throughout the house can add a great deal of safety and

security to any home. Similarly, there are many aspects of child safety which involve the remove or hide certain items such as fragile or dangerous. However, there are precautions which must be taken that can occur without the use of safety items – namely, general cleanliness, and awareness of toys, small pieces of food and more. Many of these items may seem harmless to us, but this is not the case for small children.



*Small toys can be a choking hazard to younger siblings. Make sure they are always safely put away after use.*

Food is an example of something which needs to be cleaned up after use, and must not be left on the floor. Not only does this attract spiders and insects, but children could slip on it or attempt to eat it – this is particularly problematic if the food is old and carries bacteria. It's particularly important to make sure that nothing is left out while cooking - some foods can also be sharp or hard and potentially dangerous, such as uncooked pasta, beans or rice, cut fruit and vegetables including carrots, potatoes, as well as chili and nuts.



*Make sure that food such as uncooked pasta is not left out.*

Of particular importance is the need to keep all medicines off the floor, and to make sure that no tablets or capsules accidentally fall to the floor when in use. Even if a tablet may seem harmless, such as a light headache tablet, can have detrimental effects on the health of a young child.



*All medication must be safely stored away and out of reach when not in use. Ensure no pills or other medicine is left around the home.*

Make sure that medication is always used above a sink, desk or counter rather than a floor, and that the surrounding areas are thoroughly checked after use.



*Even when administering medicine to children – not only yourself – make sure it is safely locked away at all times.*

Small toys can also be a safety hazard when left around the house. It can be difficult to keep toys contained, especially if there are more than one child in the house, but it's really important to ensure that small children do not find little pieces of plastic such as figurines or Lego, and especially not round objects such as marbles (these should be kept away from any children in general), as they can be a serious choking hazard.

Other small objects which should be removed from the floor include pens and pencils, pet accessories or food, buttons, bottle caps, paper, glass, stones and pebbles which are brought inside on shoes or other objects. While cleanliness is always an important aspect of everyday life, it is particularly crucial when small children are around, as they may injure themselves or attempt to swallow something that can be damaging in many ways.