

# Making the Home Environment Safe

Completing the following checklist provides you with a safety assessment of your home. The nurse can help you determine which questions are applicable to your home and situation. Safety hazards in a

home can usually be remedied very easily. If you answer “no” to any applicable question, the nurse can teach you what you have to do to answer “yes” and increase your home’s safety.

## SAFETY QUESTIONS

	YES	NO
1. Bathroom		
a. Are there handgrips by the tub/shower?	_____	_____
b. Are there handgrips by the toilet?	_____	_____
c. Is there a nonskid mat in the tub/shower?	_____	_____
d. Is there a seat in the tub/shower?	_____	_____
e. Is there a seat by the sink?	_____	_____
f. Does the toilet have a high-rise seat?	_____	_____
2. Electric Outlets and Devices		
a. Are unused outlets covered?	_____	_____
b. Are appliances disconnected when not in use?	_____	_____
c. Are all electric cords free from fraying or cracking?	_____	_____
d. Do all electric plugs fit snugly into their sockets?	_____	_____
e. Do electric cords run along walls?	_____	_____
f. Are all electric devices protected from and not exposed to moisture?	_____	_____
3. Fire		
a. Is there a home fire safety/drill plan?	_____	_____
b. Are exits available from all locations in the house?	_____	_____
c. Do the following areas have smoke alarms?		
• Hallways	_____	_____
• Kitchen	_____	_____
• Bedrooms	_____	_____
• Attic	_____	_____
• Basement	_____	_____
d. Does the fireplace have a smoke screen?	_____	_____
e. Is maintenance for the fireplace/woodstove scheduled and completed on a regular basis?	_____	_____
f. Are curtains and other flammable items kept away from the stove and other open flame areas?	_____	_____
g. Are there an adequate number of glass or ceramic ashtrays?	_____	_____
4. Floors		
a. Is nonskid wax used on the floors?	_____	_____
b. Are scatter rugs secured by nonskid backing?	_____	_____
c. Are large rugs anchored at the edges?	_____	_____
d. Are pathways and hallways cleared of toys, excess furniture, etc.?	_____	_____
5. Heating System		
a. Are examinations/cleanings done on a regular basis by a utility expert?	_____	_____
6. Lighting		
a. Is lighting adequate throughout the house?	_____	_____
b. Are burned-out light bulbs replaced?	_____	_____
c. Are nightlights used along routes/areas traveled after dark?	_____	_____

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	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>7. Stairwells</b>		
<b>a.</b> Are there nonskid treads on steps?	_____	_____
<b>b.</b> Are different colors used to mark changes in levels?	_____	_____
<b>c.</b> Are handrails present and securely fastened?	_____	_____
<b>8. Miscellaneous</b>		
<b>a.</b> Are the following items in secured areas out of the reach of children and confused individuals?		
• Medications	_____	_____
• Sharp objects (knives, axes, etc.)	_____	_____
• Dangerous tools	_____	_____
• Cleaning substances	_____	_____
• Poisons (bug killer, weed killer, etc.)	_____	_____
<b>b.</b> Is snow and ice removal adequate and efficient?	_____	_____
<b>c.</b> Are sidewalks, curbs, and outside stairs maintained?	_____	_____
<b>d.</b> Is the water heater temperature kept under 120°F?	_____	_____
<b>e.</b> Is wheeled furniture secured by caster plates?	_____	_____

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**OTHER INSTRUCTIONS**

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