

Home Hazard Safe-Proofing

This playbook provides a sequence of steps to safe-proof a home to mitigate risks of injury and damage during common emergencies such as fires, floods, and accidents.

Step 1: **Assessment**

Conduct a thorough assessment of your home to identify potential hazards such as unsecured heavy furniture, flammable materials, and electrical risks.

Step 2: **Secure Furniture**

Secure heavy furniture and appliances to the walls to prevent tipping, which includes bookshelves, dressers, and TVs especially in areas where earthquakes are prevalent or in homes with small children.

Step 3: **Fire Safety**

Ensure that fire safety measures include working smoke detectors, easily accessible fire extinguishers, and an established family evacuation plan.

Step 4: **Electrical Checks**

Check the electrical wiring and devices for any fraying or damage, and replace them as necessary. Consider installing outlet covers, especially if small children are present.

Step 5: **Store Chemicals**

Properly store all chemicals, cleaning supplies, and medicines out of reach of children and pets, ideally in locked cabinets.

Step 6: **Emergency Kit**

Prepare an emergency kit containing essentials such as water, non-perishable food, first-aid supplies, flashlights, and important documents.

Step 7: **Water Safety**

If you have a pool or hot tub, ensure it has a childproof barrier and consider installing alarms on doors that lead to the pool area. Teach all household members basic water safety.

Step 8: **Anti-Slip Measures**

Apply anti-slip mats or strips to tubs and showers and secure loose rugs with non-slip pads to prevent falls.

Step 9: **Window Safety**

Install window guards or safety stops to prevent falls, especially in homes with young children.

Step 10: **Check Detectors**

Regularly test and replace batteries in carbon monoxide and smoke detectors to ensure they are functioning properly.

General Notes

Regular Updates

Review and update safe-proofing measures regularly or after any major home alterations to maintain safety.

Emergency Drills

Conduct regular emergency exit drills with all household members to ensure everyone knows what to do and where to go in case of an emergency.

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