



MAKE SAFE HAPPENSM

DECKS & PORCHES

YOUR OUTDOOR SPACE:

- Make sure that the railing is not more than 4 inches off of the deck or porch surface, to prevent your child from crawling under.
- If the slats or spindles in your railing create spaces that are wider than 4 inches, you should add additional slats or spindles to fill in the gaps. If this is not possible, install a guard to prevent your child from slipping through.
- Keep furniture and outdoor decorations away from railings. Children will climb on anything, bringing them that much closer to the railing and potentially falling over the edge.
- If you have stairs leading down from your deck or porch, make sure there's handrail.
- Install a gate at the top and bottom of the stairs for small children.
- Make sure that the doors and windows that lead to your deck or porch are locked at all times, so children can't access the space unsupervised.
- Check your outdoor space regularly for wear and tear. Have a professional inspect any area that you are unsure of.

GRILLING OUTSIDE:

- Keep your grill at least 10 feet away from other things, including the house, trees or bushes. Never use your grill in the house or in the garage.
- Make sure to keep children at least 3 feet away from the grill (or any other outdoor cooking equipment or fire pits).
- When cooking, be sure to stand by the grill, and when you are finished:
 - Soak coals with cold water and then place them in a noncombustible metal can for safe disposal.
 - Store propane tanks in the garage, not in the house.

LIGHTS AND OUTLETS:

- Place any open-flame lights, like candles or torches, up and out of your child's reach. And remember to put these out before you go back inside.
- If you are using strings of outdoor lights:
 - Make sure that the lights do not have frayed or exposed wires, and do not use the same extension cord for more than 3 strands of lights, to help avoid a fire.
 - Place the lights up and out your child's reach, so that s/he does not become entangled in them.
- Cover any outdoor electrical outlets that are not in use.

DOWNLOAD THE MAKE SAFE HAPPEN APP

Developed in partnership with the safety experts at Nationwide Children's Hospital, the app helps you make your home safer. Get room-by-room safety checklists, link to recommended products, and set reminders.



CONTENT DEVELOPED IN ASSOCIATION WITH:

