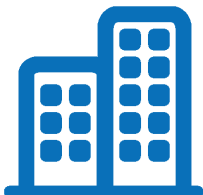


Window and Balcony Safety: Prevent Falls



HARD FACTS

The majority of serious falls happens at home. Children are twice as likely to be injured in a fall-related injury at home than at a child care facility.

Boys are more than three times as likely as girls to die from fall-related injuries.

Children younger than 7 years old are at the most risk of falling from windows or balconies.

Most window falls happen from windows with screens properly installed.

For more information on injury prevention, call 983-6800.

In the United States, 4,000 children fall from buildings every year – 70 percent fall from second- or third-story windows.

CHILDREN AT RISK

- Playful and spontaneous children.
- Imaginative and curious children.
- Energetic and persistent children.

Sound like any children you know?

CHILDREN AT HIGHEST RISK

- Boys.
- Younger than 5 years old.
- Supervising parents are distracted (making meals, entertaining, etc.).

WINDOW SAFETY

- Teach your children about window safety. "Screens keep bugs out; they do not keep kids in."
- Teach them to play a safe distance from windows and enforce this rule in your home. (e.g. "We play two two big steps from windows").
- Keep furniture or anything a child can climb away from windows.
- Keep windows closed and locked when not in use.
- Only allow windows to open 4 inches and install a **window stop** that meets the standards of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) — to keep children from opening them further. (Be sure an adult can open them in an emergency).
- If you open windows wider than 4 inches, install **window guards** that can be removed by an adult in an emergency, and meet the ASTM standards.



- Share this information with grandparents, child care providers, friends and neighbors who may have children visit their home.
- Have an emergency fire escape plan for your family.

BALCONY SAFETY

- Children on balconies should have careful supervision.
- Make sure spaces between slats/bars are 4 inches or less.
- Install a plastic shield or mesh barriers that covers the railings.
- Keep furniture away from balconies.
- Keep doors leading to balcony locked.

Source: safekids.org, stopat4.com

