

## SIX HOME FEATURES THAT HELP KEEP KIDS SAFE

### How safe are our homes?

Three out of four serious injuries to young children occur in the place you'd think they'd be safest – their own home.



Try checking your home against the following list of home safety features:

**1. Pools (and spas)** that are fully fenced, with well maintained, self-closing gates.

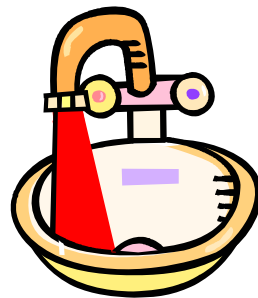
### Why?

Young children drown quickly and silently. Around 20 children under five drown each year in unfenced pool or pools with poorly maintained fences or gates.

**2. Hot water** from bathroom taps set at a delivery temperature of 50°.

### Why?

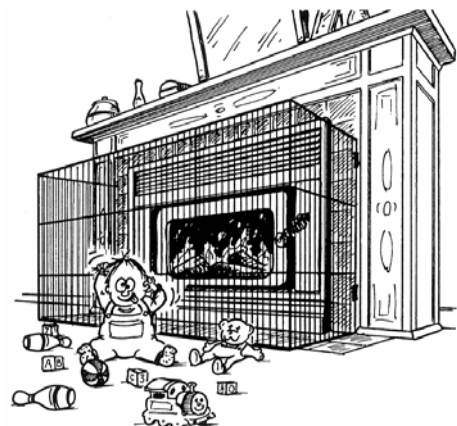
**Hot water burns like fire. Many Australian homes have hot water coming from their taps at temperature that can burn a child's skin in one second.**



**3. Barriers** such as stairs and fireguards in place to keep children away from hazards.

### Why?

Falls down stairs and steps are common and because young children are 'top heavy', head injuries can often occur. Babies and toddlers don't understand "hot". They are attracted to bright colours – like the flames of a fire – and may touch hot surfaces while simply exploring their world.



**4. Child resistant catches** fitted to cupboards where dangers like medicines, cleaners, matches and lighters are stored.

### Why?

Young children are curious and don't understand danger. Telling them "not to touch" is not enough to keep them safe. Dangerous products need to be stored away safely.

**5. Smoke alarms** installed with Fire Brigade advice and checked regularly.

### Why?

House fires continue to claim Australian lives every year. Young children are at risk as they need adults to rescue them in time. Smoke alarms provide a warning that may be critical to survival.



**6. Play areas** fenced off from the street and the driveway.

### Why?

Cars and kids don't mix. Young children have no fear of cars and are not easily seen by drivers. Nearly every month a toddler is killed after being reversed over in a driveway.

**Kidsafe estimates that if these six features were in place in all Australian homes, they would help prevent more than half of all home injury deaths among children under five and thousands of children from the trauma of a hospital visit.**

Families wanting more information on making their home safer for children can contact:



**A Parents Guide to Kidsafe Homes** is available from Kidsafe Centres at a small cost.

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**child safety is no accident**