

Keeping Safe in Modern Homes

Accidents can happen if we're not careful and paying attention to what we're doing. Homes in the past had lots of different dangers. Most modern houses don't have open fire cookers or winding servants' staircases, but we still have to watch out for things that are:

- hot (that can burn us or start a fire)
- sharp (that can cut us)
- poisonous (that can make us ill)
- or might make us trip over, slip or fall.

Our homes are filled with the things we use every day – toys, games, furniture, computers, electrical items, clothes and tools. You and your family need to look out for the possible dangers in each room (including the garden, garage or shed). Keep the house as tidy and as safe as possible. If you have younger brothers or sisters, or pets, you can help to keep them safe too!

Here are some of the most common dangers in and around modern homes:

Danger from fire and heat

Examples: fireplaces, cookers, heaters, irons, toasters, candles, hot water

In the past, people cooked on an open fire. Today, we use an electrical or gas oven, but anywhere there's heat, there's a danger of getting burnt or starting a fire. Modern homes use lots of electrical items. Using electricity can be dangerous, especially near water, but damaged electrical items and cables can also spark a fire.

Danger from trips, slips and falls

Examples: ladders, loose cables, mess left on the floor, slippery surfaces

Throughout history, there has always been a danger of tripping, slipping or falling at home. In modern homes, there is an extra danger from electric cables, which can trip you up if they're not coiled up neatly. It's important to keep houses tidy, so there's less risk of tripping over mess or slipping on something spilt. Watch where you step and don't run inside the house!

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Keeping Safe in Modern Homes (Continued)

Danger from sharp things

Examples: knives, pins and needles, scissors, sharp tools, razors

Sharp things should always be used very carefully and then stored away safely. In modern homes, there are sharp electrical items (like food processors or hedge trimmers) which have fast-moving blades. These are extremely dangerous!

Danger from poisons

Examples: cleaning products, dirty food, perfumes, poisonous berries, paints

Poisons are liquids, solids or gases that damage your body, make you feel sick or can even kill you. Modern homes are full of things that you might not realise are poisonous. Some make you ill if you swallow them (like shampoo or perfume) and others can harm you even if you get them on your skin (like bleach).

You can read about each of the dangers in more detail in the other fact sheets:

Fire and Heat; Trips Slips and Falls; Sharp Things and **Poisons**.