

Safety Assessment Checklist

Itemized starting at birth and by mobility development.

- Check smoke detectors
- Consider a carbon monoxide detector
- Block or cover radiators/space heaters
- Secure or remove loose rugs (also for a baby-carrying mom)
- Secure loose hand rails
- Assess your furniture for sharp edges and corners (replace or pad edges)
- Assess plants for poison or problems if he eats it (backyard too)
- Turn water temperature down to 120-125°F
- Secure fire arms
- Secure bookshelves/cabinets to walls (that may tip with a climbing baby or an earthquake)
- Secure TVs so they can't tip or be pulled down by cord onto baby
- Assess all toxins:
 - Including cleaning products, medications, and cosmetics
 - Consider eliminating unneeded toxins like paint and pesticides
 - Store what you keep where a walking/climbing baby can't reach
- Assess cords and wires:
 - Cut window cords: remove loops, shorten and tie up, and keep away from crib
 - Electrical cords and all other cords/lanyards can strangle, be chewed on, or pulled down/on by baby: keep them away or secured
 - A crib mobile is an issue once baby can stand by holding the crib rail, so remove the mobile baby reaches this stage
- Plastic bags, especially thin ones from cleaner, can cause suffocation
- Consider safety gates at the top of stairs and/or to block entry to unsafe rooms
- Use safety latches on cabinets and doors in kitchen and bathroom
- For used baby equipment recall info visit the [Consumer Product Safety Commission](#) website, search for your product, and then Google away
- Register new equipment for future recalls
- Small object vigilance and diligence:
 - Babies/toddlers instinctually put things in their mouth
 - An empty toilet paper roll is a good gauge of what fits in a baby's throat
 - Anything small, sharp, or removable (e.g., rubber tips on doorstops) is a problem
 - Very dangerous items include **dishwasher soap pods and batteries**
 - Adopt a "baby's-eye" view: Get on your knees and crawl around. You'll be amazed at what you see.
- Stay vigilant: e.g., remove pencils and pens in your shirt pocket before holding your baby.