

## HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST



Any time is a good time to take a fresh look at the safety of your home. Use your common sense and the following checklist to help evaluate home hazards and safeguard your family.

### Inside the house

- When was the last time you tested your smoke alarms? Changed the batteries?
- Do you have a fire escape route for your family?
- Do you notice any frayed wires, wires under carpets, loose plugs or gas smells around pipes or appliances?
- Do your throw rugs have non-skid padding under them?
- Do your staircases have handrails and slip-resistant floor coverings?
- Is there a bath/shower mat near the bathtub or shower?
- Are household cleaning products and medications kept out of children's reach? Do they have childproof caps?
- Do you have a carbon monoxide detector in your home?
- Is the number of your local poison control center posted near every phone?

### Outside the house

- Uneven ground? Level problem areas or mark them to prevent a fall.
- Do you have ice-melt, salt, or sand for icy driveways, sidewalks and porches?
- Are power tools and hazardous substances like weed killers, fertilizers or grease-removing solvents locked inside a cabinet, out of children's reach?
- Are flammable materials, such as gasoline or oil-soaked rags, in appropriate containers?
- Have you inspected your overhead garage door lately?
- Do you keep the garage door down and locked at all times, even if you are inside the house or in the yard?
- Is the automatic reverse mechanism working properly? Test it monthly!
- If you have a swimming pool, does it have a locked barrier to keep kids out when no adults are around to supervise them?

Sources: "A Year 2000 Home Safety Checklist", *Family Safety & Health*, National Safety Council, 2000  
*Your Home Safety Checklist*, National Safety Council, 2002  
*There's No Place Like Home*, National Safety Council, 2003

