



*Basingstoke
and Deane*

Safe at home

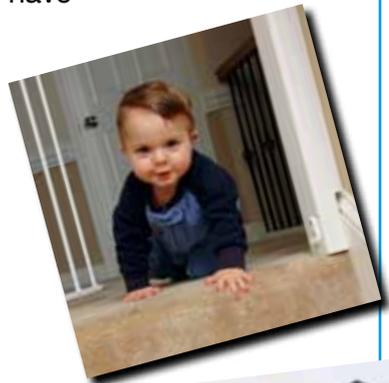
Guide to reduce accidents within the home



Safe at home

Every year approximately 4,000 people across the UK die in accidents in the home. Most of these accidents are due to human error and can be prevented.

- Fire can kill. Keep a fire blanket in your kitchen, fit smoke detectors on each floor and test them regularly. Plan an escape route in case of emergency. Never smoke in bed.
- Open fires can be a stunning feature in any home. To prevent burns and scalds, ensure that all open fires and heaters are guarded.
- Arrange for all gas and electrical installations to be checked on a regular basis by a qualified engineer. Be aware of carbon monoxide poisoning symptoms, if you have gas appliances then you could purchase a carbon monoxide detector from any good DIY store and stay safe.
- Never use electrical appliances which have damaged cords or flexes and cracked plugs. Never overload your sockets.
- In total 55% of accidental injuries in the home are due to falls. To avoid falling remove obstructions from halls, stairs and landings and ensure that all carpets and coverings are securely fitted.
- Avoid trailing cables or flexes as they can be a trip hazard. Also, ensure that the stairways and halls are free from clutter.



- If you have young children, install stairgates at the top and bottom of the stairs and at the entrance to the kitchen. Fit opening restrictors to all windows on the upper floors of your home.
- Put plug guards into all unused plug sockets which can be reached by a child.
- Keep all harmful products and medicines locked away or out of reach of children, nationally 28,000 children have received treatment for poisoning in the past few years.
- When bathing your child, make sure the water is not too hot. Over 2,000 children receive treatment every year as a result of being scolded in hot baths.
- A child can drown in less than 3cms of water. Don't leave your child unattended in a bath or in the garden if you have a pond.
- The fear of crime can also affect your health by causing anxiety and depression. For added security ensure that your front door and all your windows have adequate locks.



Garden safety

- Always use a Residual Current Device (RCD) when operating electrical powered garden tools such as mowers.
- Store all chemicals out of sight and reach of children.
- When handling chemicals, such as weed killer always follow the manufacturer's instructions.

- Always use protective equipment such as gloves, goggles, helmets, facemasks and safety shoes as appropriate when carrying out DIY tasks.
- Never exceed your range of skills, abilities and experience.
- Check the condition of your ladder before using it. Ensure that it is stable and fixed firmly into position and set at a safe angle.
- Always keep sharp garden tools in good repair. Ensure sharp tools are stored safely away after use and kept away from children.
- Make sure children are safely away from any area where work such as DIY projects and lawn mowing are being undertaken.
- Ensure ponds and water features are correctly safe guarded from children. Always supervise children near water.
- Where there are changes in garden levels provide safety rails or barriers to prevent falls. Ensure all pathways and steps are level, stable and in good repair.
- Always site bonfires and barbecues away from fences, sheds and trees. Always supervise children around bonfires.



Home safety advice is also available from the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council website www.basingstoke.gov.uk or by calling the **Housing Standards team on 01256 845331.**

An alternative source of advice can be found by visiting the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents website www.rosa.com