Together we can all make a greater impact in our community!

We encourage you to work with your friends, family and neighbors to ensure they live in safe and healthy homes:

SHARE these tips with others in your community.

ENCOURAGE homeowners in need of critical home repair work to contact Rebuilding Together and apply for our services.

VOLUNTEER with your local Rebuilding Together affiliate.

MAKE a contribution and invest in the health of your community!

With your support, we can build safer and healthier homes and communities.

Rebuilding Together is a leading national nonprofit in safe and healthy housing with more than 40 years of experience. Together, with our corporate and community partners, we transform the lives of low-income homeowners by improving the safety and health of their homes and revitalizing our communities. Rebuilding Together’s local affiliates and nearly 100,000 volunteers complete about 10,000 rebuild projects nationwide each year. Learn more and get involved at rebuildingtogether.org.

This home safety checklist will assist you in making important changes in your home, which will decrease the likelihood of an injury from a fall, fire or other accidents. You can make your home safer – we’re here to help!
GENERAL

☐ Make sure the numerals for your address are clearly visible from the street.

☐ Keep important phone numbers – including police, fire, poison control and emergency services near the telephone, and be sure to write in large, easy-to-read print.

☐ Water leaks can cause serious damage to your home and your health – identify the cause of any leak and fix it promptly.

☐ Have your gutters and downspouts checked once a year to ensure they are clean and free of obstructions.

☐ Set your water heater no hotter than 120 degrees Fahrenheit.

☐ Keep low coffee tables, magazine racks, footrests and plants out of walkways.

☐ Remove old throw rugs and install a non-slip pad.

☐ Have an operating smoke and/or carbon monoxide detector on each floor of your home.

☐ Check batteries twice a year (when daylight savings time changes) and replace as needed.

☐ If anyone in your home is using a walker or other mobility devices, make sure the wheels do not slide over throw rugs.

☐ Have a lamp or light switch that produces enough light to guide you in the dark.

☐ Keep an ABC-rated fire extinguisher on every floor of the house, especially in or near the kitchen.

☐ Keep keys to internal door locks close to the door and easily accessible.

☐ Make sure all windows and doors to the outside close and lock securely.

☐ Be sure that everyone in the house knows how to properly operate fire extinguishers.

☐ Do not use a chair to reach high surfaces of your home. Use stools and ladders on hand.

☐ Do not drape cords over hot surfaces. Other hot surfaces include: halogen lamps, heat Monaco, halogen lamp or other heat producing objects.

☐ Use safety plugs to cover unused electrical outlets.

☐ Never overload outlets, extension cords or power strips.

☐ Install ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) electrical receptacles in kitchen and bathrooms.

☐ Place locks where all members of the household can reach and use them.

☐ Be sure that any walkways to the house are free of tripping hazards.

☐ Check batteries twice a year (when daylight savings time changes) and replace as needed.

☐ Have your chimney and flue inspected once a year.

☐ Never leave a space heater, halogen lamp or open flame unattended. Do not keep any of these items close to curtains or other flammable materials.

☐ Make sure the kitchen is well-lit.

☐ Clean all spills immediately to avoid slips and the spread of bacteria.

☐ Separate cleaning products and other chemicals from food and drinks.

☐ Keep anything poisonous secure and out of reach of children.

☐ Use the exhaust fan when cooking to avoid moisture build up.

☐ Keep hot plates, space heaters, radiators or other hot surfaces out of walkways.

☐ Install grab bars in bathrooms and elsewhere as needed.

☐ Install and/or use the exhaust fan when bathing or showering to avoid moisture build up.

☐ Keep keys to internal door locks close to the door and easily accessible.

☐ Make sure water heaters are inspected once a year.

☐ Have your gutters and downspouts checked once a year to ensure they are clean and free of obstructions.

☐ Place nightlights in hallways as needed.

☐ Unplug all portable and countertop appliances that are not in use.

☐ Make sure that the kitchen is clean and free of clutter.

☐ Clean all spills immediately to avoid slips and the spread of bacteria.

☐ Separate cleaning products and other chemicals from food and drinks.

☐ Keep anything poisonous secure and out of reach of children.

☐ Use the exhaust fan when cooking to avoid moisture build up.

☐ Install a non-slip mat or textured adhesive strips on steps – even temporarily.

☐ Install handrails on both sides of any stairway.

HALLS AND ENTRYWAYS

☐ Make sure that the numerals for your address are clearly visible from the street.

☐ Keep your gutters and downspouts checked once a year to ensure they are clean and free of obstructions.

☐ Set your water heater no hotter than 120 degrees Fahrenheit.

☐ Keep low coffee tables, magazine racks, footrests and plants out of walkways.

☐ Remove old throw rugs and install a non-slip pad.

☐ Have an operating smoke and/or carbon monoxide detector on each floor of your home.

☐ Check batteries twice a year (when daylight savings time changes) and replace as needed.

☐ If anyone in your home is using a walker or other mobility devices, make sure the wheels do not slide over throw rugs.

☐ Have a lamp or light switch that produces enough light to guide you in the dark.

☐ Keep an ABC-rated fire extinguisher on every floor of the house, especially in or near the kitchen.

☐ Keep keys to internal door locks close to the door and easily accessible.

☐ Make sure all windows and doors to the outside close and lock securely.

☐ Be sure that any walkways to the house are free of tripping hazards.

☐ Check batteries twice a year (when daylight savings time changes) and replace as needed.

☐ Have your chimney and flue inspected once a year.

☐ Never leave a space heater, halogen lamp or open flame unattended. Do not keep any of these items close to curtains or other flammable materials.

☐ Make sure that all lamps and fixtures are equipped with bulbs having wattage equal to or less than the manufacturer’s suggestion.

☐ Place locks where all members of the household can reach and use them.

☐ Be sure that any walkways to the house are free of tripping hazards.

☐ Widens doorways to accommodate household members who use a walker or wheelchair.

☐ Do not leave clutter on the floor – it is both a fire and a tripping hazard.

KITCHEN

☐ Have your furnace checked once a year.

☐ Have your chimney and flue inspected once a year.

☐ Never leave a space heater, halogen lamp or open flame unattended. Do not keep any of these items close to curtains or other flammable materials.

☐ Make sure that all lamps and fixtures are equipped with bulbs having wattage equal to or less than the manufacturer’s suggestion.

☐ Unplug all portable and countertop appliances that are not in use.

☐ Make sure that the kitchen is clean and free of clutter.

☐ Clean all spills immediately to avoid slips and the spread of bacteria.

☐ Separate cleaning products and other chemicals from food and drinks.

☐ Keep anything poisonous secure and out of reach of children.

☐ Use the exhaust fan when cooking to avoid moisture build up.

☐ Keep electric devices away from water and other chemicals from food and drinks.

☐ Keep a phone near the bed.

☐ Do not use a chair to reach high surfaces of your home. Use stools and ladders on hand.

☐ Do not drape cords over hot surfaces. Other hot surfaces include: halogen lamps, heat Monaco, halogen lamp or other heat producing objects.

☐ Use safety plugs to cover unused electrical outlets.

☐ Never overload outlets, extension cords or power strips.

☐ Install ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) electrical receptacles in kitchen and bathrooms.

☐ Make sure water heaters are inspected once a year.

☐ Have your gutters and downspouts checked once a year to ensure they are clean and free of obstructions.

☐ Place nightlights in hallways as needed.

☐ Unplug all portable and countertop appliances that are not in use.

☐ Make sure that the kitchen is clean and free of clutter.

☐ Clean all spills immediately to avoid slips and the spread of bacteria.

☐ Separate cleaning products and other chemicals from food and drinks.

☐ Keep anything poisonous secure and out of reach of children.

☐ Use the exhaust fan when cooking to avoid moisture build up.

☐ Install a non-slip mat or textured adhesive strips on steps – even temporarily.

☐ Install handrails on both sides of any stairway.

BATHROOMS

☐ Keep electric devices away from bathtubs and sinks.

☐ Keep towels and washcloths away from heaters.

☐ Modify your toilets, sinks and faucets to accommodate household members who use a walker or wheelchair.

☐ Install grab bars in bathrooms and elsewhere as needed.

☐ Install and/or use the exhaust fan when bathing or showering to avoid moisture build up.

☐ Keep first aid supplies well stocked and easily accessible.

☐ Have a lamp or light switch with a dimmer feature that you can easily reach from bed.

☐ Keep hot plates, space heaters and other hot appliances away from bed.

☐ Keep a phone near the bed.

☐ Never place anything on the steps – even temporarily.

☐ Install ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) electrical receptacles in kitchen and bathrooms.

☐ Make sure all lamps and fixtures are equipped with bulbs having wattage equal to or less than the manufacturer’s suggestion.

☐ Place locks where all members of the household can reach and use them.

☐ Be sure that any walkways to the house are free of tripping hazards.

☐ Widens doorways to accommodate household members who use a walker or wheelchair.

☐ Do not leave clutter on the floor – it is both a fire and a tripping hazard.

BEDROOMS

☐ Clean the clothes drying… lint trap after each use.

☐ Make sure you never run the dryer when no one is home.

☐ Make sure water heaters, furnaces and space heaters that produce carbon monoxide vent outside.

☐ Make sure the dryer vents close to curtains or other hot surfaces.

☐ Keep towels and washcloths away from heaters.

☐ Modify your toilets, sinks and faucets to accommodate household members who use a walker or wheelchair.

☐ Install grab bars in bathrooms and elsewhere as needed.

☐ Install and/or use the exhaust fan when bathing or showering to avoid moisture build up.

☐ Keep first aid supplies well stocked and easily accessible.

☐ Have a lamp or light switch with a dimmer feature that you can easily reach from bed.

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☐ Widens doorways to accommodate household members who use a walker or wheelchair.

☐ Do not leave clutter on the floor – it is both a fire and a tripping hazard.

BASEMENT/LAUNDRY ROOM

☐ Have a plan for escape in case of a home fire that all occupants understand, making special considerations for small children and older home occupants.

☐ Have an ABC-rated fire extinguisher on every floor of the house, especially in or near the kitchen.

☐ Be sure that everyone in the house knows how to properly operate fire extinguishers.

☐ Have your furnace checked once a year.

☐ Have your chimney and flue inspected once a year.

☐ Never leave a space heater, halogen lamp or open flame unattended. Do not keep any of these items close to curtains or other flammable materials.

☐ Make sure that all lamps and fixtures are equipped with bulbs having wattage equal to or less than the manufacturer’s suggestion.

☐ Unplug all portable and countertop appliances that are not in use.

☐ Make sure that the kitchen is well-lit.

☐ Clean all spills immediately to avoid slips and the spread of bacteria.

☐ Separate cleaning products and other chemicals from food and drinks.

☐ Keep anything poisonous secure and out of reach of children.

☐ Use the exhaust fan when cooking to avoid moisture build up.

☐ Install a non-slip mat or textured adhesive strips on steps – even temporarily.

☐ Install handrails on both sides of any stairway.

☐ Do not leave clutter on the floor – it is both a fire and a tripping hazard.