

## Keeping Safe at Home

We're taught to be take a series of precautions when we're out and about, often overlooking the every-day dangers lurking around our kitchens and bathrooms. Here's how to keep safe at home.

### FIRES

Be sure to have operational smoke alarms in every room of your home, and test them regularly. Most people do not have a fire plan in place, with safety protocols and an agreed upon meeting place. To reduce your risk a house fires, clear away clutter, in particular flammable matter like newspapers, magazines and old boxes. Have a professional regularly inspect your electrical systems. Call an electrician if you find loose or frayed wires.

### DROWNING

Pools should be properly secured, and closely monitored. The same goes for bath time when it comes to younger children. This water-related hazard is often overlooked, but presents a particular danger. Around 90 children



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### REAL ESTATE 101

#### Security Systems May Not Increase Home Value

There's an array of home security systems at all different price points to choose from, but they won't necessarily increase the value of your home. Read more on HomeLight at [bit.ly/3C5R4Rv](https://bit.ly/3C5R4Rv).

drown inside their home every year, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Two-thirds of those deaths happened in

the bathtub.

### POISONING

Many common household items carry with them the risk

of poisoning, in particular for young children and pets. Cleaning supplies, medications and fuel for lawn equipment are among the chief

dangers. Keep them out of reach or locked away so they won't be accidentally ingested. Carbon monoxide poisoning is particularly dangerous, because it's difficult to smell. Install a detector to keep your family safe. Remember to keep up with regular maintenance on any tool or appliance that might leak fuel or fumes.

### CHOKING

Make sure you cut your good into small enough bites that you don't risk choking. This is especially important if you're feeding younger children. Remember to pair a drink with your meals, since that's an important aid in chewing. Small objects can also cause choking in kids and animals.

### FALLS

Secure rugs and carpeting, and remove clutter and tripping hazards like power cords. The CDC reports about 36 million falls among older adults annually, with more than 32,000 deaths. About 3 million elderly U.S. citizens require emergency-room treatment for fall injuries each year. But unintentional injuries — including falls, but also drug overdoses, car crashes, and drowning — are actually the leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of 1 and 44 years old.





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### HOMEWISSE GLOSSARY

**FHA futures:** Down payment assistance for a loan where the buyer can borrow up to 6% of the loan amount to be used towards closing costs and down payment. **SOURCE:** MLS.com

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