

# Window Safety Checklist

Fires and falls of all kinds are among the leading causes of injury and death in young children. While some falls occur from windows, it is important to realize that in the event of a fire, a window can also save a child's life. This is why windows play a critical role in home safety.

- 1.** Has your family determined an emergency fire escape plan?  
 YES    NO

*Determine your family's emergency escape plan and practice it regularly. In the plan, include two avenues of escape from every room. Remember children may have to rely on a window to escape a fire. Help them learn to safely use a window under these circumstances. Make sure you have identified a safe meeting place outside.*

- 2.** Do you keep windows shut when children are around?  
 YES    NO

*You should keep your windows closed and locked when children are around. When opening windows for ventilation, open windows that children cannot reach. Also, set and enforce rules about keeping children's play away from windows and/or patio doors. Falling through the glass can be fatal or cause a serious injury.*

- 3.** Do you leave, or have you left, windows open because you thought the insect screen provided a safeguard from a fall?    YES    NO

*Don't rely on insect screens to prevent a fall. Insect screens are designed to provide ventilation while keeping insects out; they are not designed to, nor will they prevent a child's fall from a window.*

- 4.** Is there furniture placed under or near windows in your home?  
 YES    NO

*Keep furniture — or anything children can climb — away from windows. Children may use such objects as a climbing aid.*

- 5.** Do any windows in your home have guards, security bars, grilles or grates?    YES    NO

*These windows are useless in an emergency if the devices on them do not have a functioning release mechanism. Time is critical when escaping a fire. Consult your local fire department or building code official to determine proper window guard placement.*

- 6.** Inspect your home's windows carefully. Are any windows in your home painted or nailed shut?    YES    NO

*Never paint or nail windows shut. You must be able to open them to escape in an emergency.*

- 7.** Do you have any window unit air conditioners in bedroom windows or other windows in your home that may be needed for escape or rescue in an emergency?    YES    NO

*Do not install window unit air conditioners in windows that may be needed for escape or rescue in an emergency. The air conditioning unit could block or impede escape through the window. Always be sure that you have at least one window in each sleeping and living area that meets escape and rescue requirements.*

- 8.** Did you know that strategic landscaping may lessen the extent of injury sustained in the event a fall does occur?    YES    NO

*Plant shrubs and soft edging like wood chips or grass under windows to cushion potential falls. The surface can greatly affect the degree of injury sustained from a fall.*

