



**K**ids do the craziest things. And some of them involve examining objects such as sharp keys and cutlery that can cause an undesirable accident to occur. Even if your baby isn't the sort to climb over tables and chairs and wreck havoc with your belongings, childproofing your home is a good idea.

The first thing to remember is to keep your house spick and span. The more often you put things in proper places the lesser the chances of things lying around that could harm your baby. Apart from buying elaborate childproof equipment and making sure things such as the fridge, toilets, knobs and handles have safety covers, you can take simple steps such as putting rubber mats on the floor and keep dangerous items out of reach. Here are a few basic steps to make your home safe for your child.

**BEDROOM**

Kids spend a lot of time in the bedroom and while you can supervise their movements if they sleep in the same room as you, you can't watch them 24/7 if they've got their own rooms. Making your child's room safe is very important.



>> Keeping your home neat and clean is the first thing you should do to childproof your surroundings

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Make sure you keep beds and chairs away from windows to avoid accidents. If your child does not sleep in a crib any more, invest in some bed rails so they don't fall off the bed.

**BATHROOM**

The bathroom is not a good place to leave a child alone. It's the perfect set-up for all sorts of accidents. Cover the bathroom floor with non-skid mats to make it easier to avoid your kids slipping even if they do venture into the bathroom. Toilet lid locks are a must to keep kids' hands away from the toilet bowl. Keep things such as soaps, shampoos, razors and other objects on higher shelves to avoid them experimenting with blades or tasting the soap!

**KITCHEN**

Make sure that your kids are always supervised while in the kitchen. As babies, it might be a little harder to keep track of where they're crawling. Make sure that there are no knives or sharp objects anywhere within your child's reach and store all plastic bags well out of sight. Install childproof locks on things such as the fridge, cabinets and drawers, as well as your dustbin (you may not think of rummaging through the dustbin but for your child, it's just another area to explore).

**LIVING ROOM**

Make sure that all your windows have grills. If you've got stairways or levels in your house, install small gates at the top and the bottom. Keep wires out of reach and cover all electrical outlets. Also, don't keep too many plants inside the house and make sure all the doors in your house have door slam stoppers so that they don't swing shut, causing an injury. Also invest in corner cushions and place them on all the furniture that may have sharp edges such as tables.

# BABY ON BOARD

Your child's baby steps always make the best memories. Be sure to make your home a safe and sound zone so that they can freely crawl, walk and run says **Rhea Dhanbhoora**



« **TOP 5: CHILDPROOFING HOME PRODUCTS TO INVEST IN**

**1. TOILET AND DOOR LOCKS**

These help make it impossible for children to lift the seat up, protecting them from germs and injuries. Door locks will help babies stay away from cabinets and doors. You can install them quite easily and the best part is that most of them can be re-used for your next child.

**2. BED RAIL**

Bed rails prevent your child from slipping off their bed. They can be attached to most mattresses and can be locked into place once your child is in bed. They're convenient and make your baby sleeping alone on the bed a much safer event.

**3. NON-SLIP BATH MAT**

Simply putting up locks and keeping things out of sight may not be enough if your baby is simply going to slip and get

hurt on a wet bathroom floor. Keeping your bathroom dry is one thing, investing in a non-slip bath mat is a safer option and will benefit the entire family!

**4. OUTLET COVER**

You don't want your baby poking inquisitive fingers into electric sockets and open plug points. And keeping things plugged in isn't the best way to close them. So, the best thing you can do is invest in electrical outlet covers to make sure that your baby is not exposed to shocks.

**5. CORNER CUSHIONS**

A baby doesn't have to meant that you remove all your furniture. Invest in some furniture corner cushions so that you can keep your furniture and be less scared of your baby hitting their heads on sharp edges.

**TIPS TO REMEMBER**

- To keep wires out of the way, use a cordless phone or cell phones. Use laptops and have a dedicated charging zone, away from your child.
- Safety latches are a must. They will make you feel a lot safer while your child is crawling around the house.
- Turn off all switches and leave appliances unplugged as much as you can.
- Don't use tablecloths, kids can pull them down and cause things to fall on themselves.
- Remember kids don't know how to unlock doors so make sure the locks are out of reach so they don't lock themselves in a room accidentally.
- Make sure your bookshelves, T.V, music system and more are placed securely and can't be tugged out of place.
- Keep them away from tubs, buckets or any areas filled with water.