

Safe At Home With Your New Baby

A home that is harmless for two adults can pose potential hazards for a baby. If you are finding yourself in this situation, make sure you have all of your (toy) ducks in a row. You may have covered your outlets and door knobs, locked your cupboards and have your baby gates ready, but have you thought about EVERYTHING your baby comes in contact with? The list below provides greater insight into what babies have gotten into and what to watch out for so your baby doesn't.

- **Balloons:** Balloons welcome babies home, celebrate birthdays, and are tokens from fairs, restaurants, and stores. However, more children have suffocated as a result of uninflated balloons and pieces of balloons than any other type of toy. Balloons should be kept away from children under the age of eight.
- **Cribs:** Don't place cribs near windows, blinds, drapery cords, electrical cords or heat sources. Crib slats should be no more than 2-3/8" apart.
- **Stuffed Toys:** Be aware seams can separate causing stuffing or plastic to be released. Check toys for small detachable parts such as eyes, nose or mouth.
- **Art Supplies:** Always look for a label "ASTM D-4236" which means it has been inspected by a toxicologist.
- **Garage Doors:** Install a sensor, which will signal reverse motion if anything is in its way.
- **Mouthwash:** Many brands contain alcohol which can cause blood sugar to plunge. Other household products with alcohol include: perfume, colognes, aftershaves, vanilla extract, cold medications and rubbing alcohol.
- **Antifreeze:** The main ingredient, ethylene glycol, is very toxic, but has a sweet taste that attracts children.
- **Plants:** Ingestion of household plants by children under the age of five is the leading cause of inquiries to poison control.
- **Chests:** Both toy chests and cedar chests make great hiding spots for toddlers and babies. If there is a lock with the chest, make sure to use it.

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