



Preventing falls out of windows is as important as learning how to use one in an emergency.

Unattended children run the greatest risk of falls and injuries, so the best first step is to watch your children as they play. Nothing can substitute for careful supervision.

window **safety** tips ✓

- ✓ Windows provide a secondary means of escape from a burning home. Determine your family's emergency escape plan and practice it. Remember that children may have to rely on a window to escape in a fire. Help them learn to safely use a window under these circumstances.
- ✓ Check and make sure that your windows are not painted or nailed shut. You should be able to open them to escape in an emergency.
- ✓ Keep your windows closed and locked when children are around. When opening windows for ventilation, open windows that a child cannot reach or that have a restrictor fitted.
- ✓ Set and enforce rules about keeping children's play away from windows or glazed doors. Falling through the glass can be fatal or cause serious injury.
- ✓ Keep furniture — or anything children can climb — **away** from windows. Children may use such objects as a climbing aid.
- ✓ If you have young children in your home and are considering installing security screens be aware that the security screen may prevent escape in case of fire. Ensure at least one window in the room has a release mechanism on the security screen.
- ✓ Some homes may have security bars, grilles or shutters already covering their windows. Those 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.
- ✓ Make sure each and every window and door can be quickly opened when required. Select restrictors with overriding devices that can be released by an adult.
- ✓ Make sure keys to all vent locks are readily accessible.
- ✓ The degree of injury sustained from a window fall can be affected by the surface on which the victim falls. Shrubs and soft edging like wood chips or grass beneath windows may lessen the impact if a fall does occur.