



Lounge

A place to relax, to watch TV, to listen to some music, to put your feet up - so what possible dangers could there be waiting for a young child amongst all the house plants and soft furnishings? A lot more than you might think...

- Never leave a baby lying on a couch or armchair as they can easily roll off.
- Place suitably sturdy guards in front of all fires, heaters and radiators.
- To avoid the risk of fire, never leave clothes drying too near a heater or open fire.
- If you have glass doors or floor level windows, make sure these are fitted with safety glass or covered in a protective film to prevent shattering. This also applies to glass topped or glass fronted furniture.
- Move sharp or breakable ornaments out of your child's reach.
- Clear away toys after play to avoid tripping and falling.
- Remove loose or curled up rugs as these can be a trip hazard.
- Falls into coffee tables are a common cause of child injuries. Move coffee tables and other low lying furniture out of the lounge until your toddler can balance well on two feet.
- Fit corner cushion pads on sharp edged furniture such as coffee tables or TV stands.
- Secure unstable or top-heavy furniture such as bookcases or sideboards - preferably by fastening them to the wall - to prevent them toppling over on to your child.
- Children love to climb, so move furniture away from your lounge windows. Keep the windows closed when children are about, or fit safety latches that prevent the windows opening wide enough for a child to fall through.



- Blind cords can easily get twisted around a child's neck, cords should not be cut, parents should tie up the cords out or reach and use cleats where possible. Please look for the BS EN 13120:2009 standard mark.
- Never leave a child alone on a balcony. To be on the safe side, remove all balcony furniture that your child could move and climb on.
- If you have a balcony with railings, check that these are no more than 10cm (4ins) apart. If the gaps between the railings are any greater than this, board them up.
- Never leave an electric fire plugged into the mains when not in use as the bars still carry enough voltage to kill a young child.
- Make sure heavy appliances such as PCs and TVs are secure and stable with all dangling cables hidden well out of sight. The most common television-related accident involving under-fives is being struck by a falling TV set. Large wall-mounted Plasma TVs are especially dangerous if not fitted correctly – so make sure the wall is strong enough to support it and have it professionally installed (many retailers selling these sets offer this service at no extra cost).
- Always unplug from the socket when you're not charging your phone as the tip of the charger can cause severe scalding if your child puts it into his or her mouth while it's still plugged in. Also, never leave a mobile phone charging overnight as the charger could overheat and cause a fire.
- Check that there are no dangling flexes from table lamps or trailing wires from other electrical equipment for your child to pull on.

For further advice and to get the full 36 page guide to In-Home child safety visit

www.goodegghomesafety.com

