

Preparing for a House Assessment



Maryland's Place
FOSTER FAMILY SERVICES

- The interior and exterior of your home should be **clean, safe, and in good repair**. All areas should be free from objects, material, and other conditions that may be a safety hazard.
- Post a list of **emergency telephone numbers** in kitchen to include: fire department, police, poison control, preferred hospital and physician (please include physicians address)
- Post an **emergency plan** in kitchen to be followed in case of fire, tornado, storm, flood and serious injury (include a copy of the floor plan of your home identifying the various evacuation routes – this can be a hand drawn sketch) **each floor of the home should have at least 2 means of escape. One being an unobstructed door, the second may be an operable window with at least 20"X 24" dimensions**
- Install a **handrail** on all **stairways** inside and outside that are over four steps.
- Install a **child safety gate** at the bottom and top of stairways (for children **three years and younger**).
- Have **well water tested** by the local health department and provide results (if applicable).
- Have clear glass doors plainly marked to avoid accidental impact.
- Store all guns and other weapons in a secure, locked safe or cabinet.
- Store all **prescription medication** and **over the counter medicines** in a **locked box** or locked cabinet out of reach of children (medicines requiring refrigeration should be in a locked container in the refrigerator).
- Store all household chemicals and cleaning supplies up high, out of reach of children or in a cabinet with approved child proof safety latches.
- Cover all electrical outlets that are not in use (for children three years of age or younger)
- Store sharp kitchen knives up high and out of reach of children in a cabinet/drawer with approved child proof safety latches (knives should be unloaded from dishwasher promptly and stored safely)
- Install a working smoked detector on each level of the home and in the vicinity of the sleeping areas. Please provide date of installation: _____ & date batteries were last tested _____
- Install a working carbon monoxide detector on each level of the home and in the vicinity of each sleeping area. Please provide date of installation _____ & date batteries were last tested _____
- Install a fire extinguisher rated for Class ABC fires in the kitchen area
- All bedrooms in the home must ensure privacy and provide adequate storage for a child (the room must have a door and cannot be an access way to another room. The room must have a closet or other storage solution such as a chest of drawers or armoire.)

Homes with a swimming pool, pond, or other body of water:

- Any pool, pond or other body of water on the property must be fenced. If the pool area is not fenced, a separate play area should be provided.
- At least one life saving device should be available for use near the water feature (ring buoy, shepherd hook, etc.)
- All doors leading to the outside of the home must have 2 barriers of protection. It is suggested that one barrier be a high-lock installed on the door that is out of reach of children. The second suggested barrier would be a door chime such as those on home alarm systems. Door chimes may also be purchased from your local hardware store. (Doors must remain locked at all times when pool is not in use).
- Applicants with a pool, pond, or other water feature on the property or a neighborhood/apartment pool on premises, must be CPR/First Aid Certified.