

Safety Sense

Window Wisdom



The beauty and warmth of spring brings with it the enjoyment of fresh air and open windows. As much as we like having that warm air blow through our homes and offices, open windows can present a risk for falls if they are not secured or properly maintained. Yet windows are one of the most preventable building dangers and they play a critical role as an escape point in emergency situations. In recognition of National Window Safety Awareness Week, we offer these safety window tips.

- Always keep windows locked and closed when they're not in use. It will help prevent accidents and help deter children from attempting to open them.
- Install window guards or stops to ensure that windows are only open to a safe point. This allows for fresh air to come in while preventing falls while allowing ventilation. (Note – select window guards that have a quick-release mechanism in case it needs to be opened as an escape route during a fire.)
- Create and practice a home escape plan, marking emergency exit windows, to ensure everyone knows what to do in a crisis.
- Make sure you have clear emergency routes and don't block windows with furniture or other obstructions.
- Always supervise kids during indoor playtime and keep them away from window areas.
- Teach your little ones about window safety. Address that windows are not play areas and show them how they can safely use designated windows as an escape route during an emergency.
- Remember that screens are not safety devices. They're just in place to keep bugs out, not people in.
- Regularly perform maintenance checks on your windows and screens and repair or replace any components not working properly.
- If you have a security system, have sensors placed on or near windows in addition to your doors. Adding security sensors and alarms to windows can detect when a window is open or broken, triggering an alarm to alert the home and business owner and deter break-ins.

Hopefully, this has encouraged you to perform window safety checks throughout your home and business and to be on the lookout for any unsecured or damaged windows that could pose a risk.



(information provided by the National Safety Council and Window Safety Task Force)