

Childproofing home should also include examining cords, wires

You've put safety plugs in all unused electrical outlets and blocked others with large furnishings, attached cushioned edge bumpers to the sharp corners of furniture, put locks on cabinets containing harmful chemicals and medications, sequestered pens, scissors, letter openers, staplers, paper clips, and other sharp instruments, and coiled dangling cords on blinds and drapery.

But, is your home now REALLY safe for small children? Simply put, the answer is "no."

Even with these important measures in place, a home is still chock-full of dangers that threaten the physical well-being of curious young minds. While some threats are fairly obvious, others can lurk in the most unexpected places.

— Public Enemy #1: Equipment Cords and Wires

"Electrical appliance and equipment cables and wires are a true menace," notes Paul Holstein, COO of CableOrganizer.com. "Small children and even common household animals like cats, dogs, rabbits, and ferrets often see equipment wires as play things – all too often

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Children can often see electrical wires and cords as play things.

as chew toys. Clearly such a circumstance puts the child or pet at great bodily risk, with electric shock and strangulation at the top of the list. Even if the loved one evades harm, significant damage could be caused to the associated electronic equipment. But, this is just one of many dangers that all too often go unaddressed by even the most well-intentioned parent."

With all of this in mind, the experts at CableOrganizer.com, a leader in cable, wire and equipment management solutions, offer these "Phase 2" home childproofing strategies:

- **Cable Control on the Cheap:** For just a few dollars, computer cables can be easily shielded with split wire loom, flexible and durable polyethylene corrugated tube with a split down the side where you enter your multi-cable bundle. If you have to add another wire later on, you can easily slip it into the split wire loom along with the others without removing the entire bundle.

- **Achieve Lift-Off:** Cables, power adapters, power strips, hubs, modems and other small devices can be readily lifted off the floor and put safely out of harm's way with cable management products to loop, tie and hang "cable



clutter" off the floor to reduce risks including snags, trips, and liquid spills.

- **Wire Fire Can Be Dire:** With a glut of equipment, wiring and electrical outlets conducting heat, often over long periods of time and in compact spaces, fire safety is an important cord control consideration. In addition to the standard fire extinguisher every home should be equipped with, other fire safety measures should also be employed. Flame spread is one vital safety consideration that can be easily addressed. Flame-retardant wire sleeving that does not support combustion can significantly reduce home fire hazards. You can also establish an effective insulating barrier to prevent the spread of fire and smoke through structural gaps and voids with Fire-Rated Expanding Polyurethane Foams - a cost-effective way to establish an insulating seal on concrete, brick, wood, metal, aluminum and steel.

- **Chemistry 101:** Most homes contain chemicals that can be considered hazardous. Many cleaning agents, art supplies, and home office supplies may contain properties that are classified as hazardous materials. In these areas, utilizing chemicals labeled as "environmentally safe, non-hazardous, non-toxic and non-corrosive" is your best bet.

- **An Important Mat-ter:** Traction floor mats excellent for high traffic and extend-

ed use areas, particularly those prone to moisture or spills. Be sure to use a floor mat with beveled edges to eliminate trip risk; those with sponge bases will enhance ergonomic safety to boot.

- **Surface Raceways:** Wires that run across the floor to a distant outlet are among the most dangerous, with a high risk of bodily injury or damaged equip-

ment. Fortunately, surface raceways are a readily available and easy way to organize and protect electrical cords that run along the floor or on the wall. These "cable channels" are made of tough PVC and can be painted to match your home decor.

- **Cord Protectors:** These wire cover systems are another great way to keep

children and adults alike from tripping on loose cables and cords running across a walkway or behind furniture. Cord protectors cover, hide, and protect cords and cables while keeping floors clear and safe. They also lie flat, and stay flat, and are decidedly easy to install.

- **Heavy Metal:** Whether you want greater protection for your wires from children or animals or have a need to protect outdoor fiber optics, RG-6 coaxial cable or Category 5E cables from wildlife or the elements, Metal Braided Sleeving, made from tin-coated copper, is both flexible and strong, also offering Electromagnetic Interference (EMI) protection.

- **Take the Edge Off:** Wrap anything with a sharp edge such as broken/cracked glass, brittle plastic casings or other objects, or other materials that may break and produce a sharp or rough edge in corrugated cardboard and secure with a heavy-duty tape to protect yourself and others from accidental lacerations. This is especially important before placing such items in a trash container.

- **Get Attached:** Assure bookshelves and cabinets over 5 feet in height, particularly those that are top-heavy, are secured to the wall with the appropriate mount or fastener to ensure they do not fall over and deliver a crushing blow to whoever is on the receiving end.



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Parents should move hazardous chemicals away from the reach of children.