

# Home Safety Standards

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## Electrical Safety

- Cords should not be placed beneath furniture and rugs.
- Replace frayed cords.
- Extension cords will not be overloaded. Check rating labels on cord and appliance.
- Electrical outlets should be grounded.
- Multiple outlet adaptors should not be used on electrical outlets.
- Do not use outlet if sparks or smoke appears, or if outlet becomes very warm.
- Keep flash lights and extra batteries handy in case a loss of electricity occurs.
- Do not touch electrical wires with wet hands.

## Environmental Safety

- Rugs, runners, and mats should be secured to floor with double-sided adhesive, rubber matting, or be rubber-backed.
- Carpet edges should be tacked down.
- Torn, worn, or frayed carpeting should be repaired, replaced or removed.
- Cupboards should be organized so that frequently used items are on lower shelves.
- Handrails and hand grips should be secure.
- Sturdy step stool should be used to reach items on high shelves.
- Heavy items should be stored flat on lower levels of closet to avoid falling and injuries.
- Store supplies and waste out of reach of children and pets.
- Clean spills of blood or body fluids with dilute (1:10) household bleach and paper towels and dispose in double-bagged household trash.
- Do not use sponges or dishcloths to clean a spill.

## Emergency Plan

- Know how to call “911” or emergency medical transportation (ambulance).
- Locate at least one phone where it is accessible in the event an accident renders a person unable to stand.
- Emergency numbers should be posted near the phone, including the numbers of your physician, Chartwell and family/significant other.

## Caretaker Safety

- Wash hands before and after all patient contact, immediately after touching blood or body fluids and immediately after removing gloves.
- Wear disposable gloves when there is any potential contact with blood, body fluids, or open sores.
- If the glove tears, remove it, wash hands, and put on a new pair.
- Wear a mask or protective eyeglasses and gown or apron during procedures when exposure to blood or body fluids is possible.
- Avoid patient care if you have a cold, cough or a draining wound on your skin.

## Fire Safety

- Fire regulations recommend one smoke detector on every level of the home. Check batteries on detectors at regular intervals.
- Develop evacuation plan to exit the residence in the event of fire.
- Prioritize family members who are dependent, non-ambulatory, or will require assistance.
- Establish clear pathways to all exits. Do not block exits with furniture or boxes.
- Have key accessible near deadbolt-locked doors.
- Do not leave cooking unattended for extended periods.
- Chimneys should be inspected annually to avoid dangerous build up.
- Kerosene heaters, wood stoves, fireplaces should not be left unattended while in use.
- Do not smoke in bed.
- If oxygen is in use, post a no-smoking sign.