

Physical Environment and Safety in the Home

The timely identification and remediation of issues related to the physical plant is an important step to maintain overall safety in the home. The list below serves as a guide for things to look for in the home that relate to safety. If you find a problem in one of these areas, report it promptly to your maintenance department, and follow up to ensure that it is fixed.

- Basement is free of clutter; no evidence of water seepage and storage is off of floor.
- Bathrooms have no evidence of leaks; all fixtures are in good repair, toilet seats fit, fans/vents are clean and in good repair and hot water temperature does not exceed 110° Fahrenheit.
- Beds are in good repair; mattresses and frames are in good condition.
- Clothes dryers are maintained: the lint trap is cleaned after each load and has no tears; area around dryer and outside vent is free of lint; dryer vent hose connected and not “kinked up” behind dryer.
- Doors throughout the home close and latch properly.
- Electrical hazards are avoided; there are no frayed cords; cords do not run under carpets or through doorways; no loose connections; no malfunctioning switches/outlets/nightlights; no “piggybacking” of surge protected power strips; no furniture rubbing against plugs; bedding is kept away from electrical outlets.
- Exit paths and areas are free of obstacles; doors open readily and are not propped open; exterior free of clutter; clear of snow and ice; and hallways are kept clear of obstacles.
- Exterior is free of peeling paint; gutters/downspouts clear and functioning properly; grounds maintained; sidewalks, stairs, and ramps are in good repair.
- Fire alarm systems are operating and in good repair; smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are not obstructed, damaged, or disabled; fire alarm panels are operating without any trouble indication or other alerts on the panel.
- Flammables, combustibles, and toxic substances are properly stored.
- Floors and staircases are clear of any hazards: rugs, runners, carpet, vinyl, tile, wood, etc., secure and in good repair; railings secure and in good repair.
- Kitchen appliances are working and in good condition; cords free of fraying and/or cracks; gas stove pilot lights and exhaust fan clean and in working order.
- Lighting is adequate and working properly, including emergency lighting for evacuation.
- Plumbing works properly; drains run freely, no leaking pipes, and fixtures are in good condition.
- Radiators are clean, have no leaking valves, are shielded, and not in contact w/material (furniture, clothing, etc.).
- Roof has no evidence of leaks or other damage.
- Walls and ceilings have no sags, cracks, holes, or peeling paint.
- Windows and screens operate easily; there are no cracked or broken panes or torn screens.