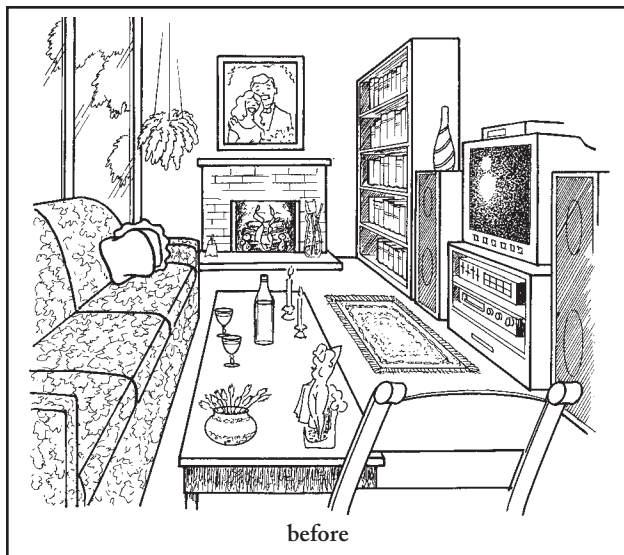


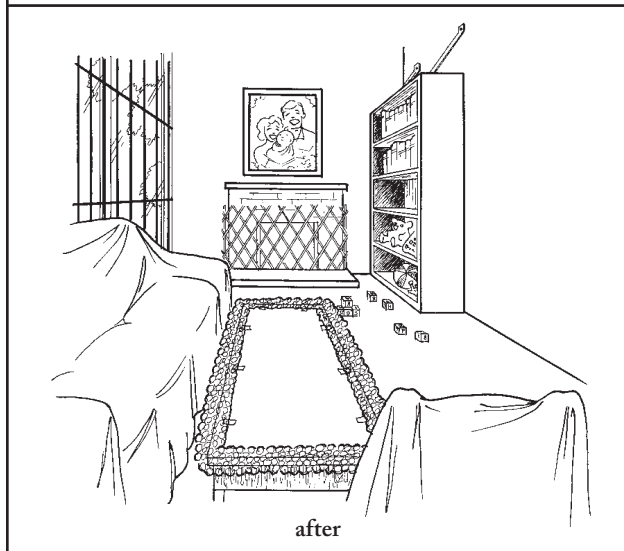
WORST-CASE SCENARIO

HOW TO BABYPROOF THE HOUSE

- 1 Crawl around on your hands and knees to see the house from your child's point of view.**
Anticipate the things that will interest him.
- 2 Remove all sharp edges.**
Create corner bumpers out of foam or bubble wrap. Protect all hard edges within the child's reach, including coffee tables, end tables, bookcases, televisions, entertainment centers, hard chairs, dressers, bed stands, and desks.
- 3 Protect electrical outlets.**
Use spring-loaded release covers in electrical outlets; plastic slip-in outlet guards can be too easily removed. Alternatively, move electrical outlets higher on the wall, to just below the ceiling, or replace all electrical appliances with battery-operated appliances. Batteries are toxic, however.
- 4 Install window guards.**
Use window guards that prevent windows from opening more than 4 inches. Use the sliding button guard or the lock-and-key guard (which also keeps burglars out, but might prohibit a fast exit in an emergency). Protect low-to-the-ground windows with a hard plastic sheet or soft Mylar coating that prevents a child from shattering the glass. Do not use tilt-out windows



before



after

unless windows are kept closed and locked at all times. Alternatively, install bars not more than $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches apart on the outside of windows.

- 5 Install childproof doorknob spinners.**
Deter your child from entering unsafe rooms or closets by covering all doorknobs with childproof covers that will spin loosely when a child attempts to turn the knob.
- 6 Install drawer and cabinet guards.**
To prevent your child from reaching knives in a drawer or cleaning agents under the sink, secure drawers and cabinets with childproof latches.
- 7 Hang towels over the top of doors to prevent the child from slamming the door on his fingers.**
Alternatively, remove all doors.
- 8 Bolt heavy furniture to walls.**
Tall, heavy furniture can be tipped and pulled down by children, especially if they are climbing. Strap or secure bookcases, dressers, cabinets, and televisions. Tape lamps to tables or floors.
- 9 Avoid entanglements.**
Tie up (or down) or remove all curtains, blinds, and cords, especially electrical cords.
- 10 Remove poisonous plants.**
If you are not sure which plants are poisonous, throw them all away. Eliminate hazardous outdoor plants as well as houseplants.

11 **Install baby gates.**

Use gates that are 30 inches tall and have only vertical posts, with a bar top and bottom: Do not use diamond-shaped accordion gates that a child can climb. Place a gate at the top and bottom of a staircase. Keep gates closed at all times, even when the baby is asleep or not home.

12 **Block the fireplace.**

Put a nontoxic plant or fake logs in the grate. Install a gate around the outside of the hearth to prevent the child from approaching the fireplace or from sustaining an injury after hitting the edge of the fireplace. Put away all fireplace tools. Do not use the fireplace for actual fires until the child is older.

13 **Reduce the temperature of the hot water heater.**

Turn the water heater to 120°F or below to prevent scalding.

14 **Install a spout guard over the bathtub spigot.**

Mount foam on the metal faucet to prevent inadvertent head gouging or bumping while bathing.

15 **Install a stove guard.**

Attach a plastic shield in front of your stove's burners to prevent your child from reaching up and overturning pots and pans or burning fingers on hot or flaming surfaces. Affix knob protectors so your child cannot accidentally turn on the range.



16 **Put lid guards on all toilets.**

Do not let the baby watch a dog drink from the toilet bowl.

17 **Line floors with gym mats.**

Cover all flat surfaces with gym mats several inches thick to provide extra padding in case of a fall.

Be Aware

Keep purses and diaper bags, which are repositories for dangerous items and choking hazards, out of the reach of children. Put away guests' bags as well.