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## 90% of Pressure-Mounted Gates are Installed Unsafely

A popular type of safety gate are the pressure mounted ones. They can be relatively easy to install and some people think that they won't do as much damage to a wall or post as a hardware-mounted hinged gate. But pressure mounted gates are very frequently installed incorrectly or in the wrong location. And this can be a recipe for disaster for a child or even an adult.

There are two types of pressure mounted gates – plastic ones that you remove each time you want to go through the gate, and metal ones that are firmly mounted up against a wall or post and have an opening in the middle you walk through.

Recommendation for pressure mounted gates are:

- ◆ **Never Use Them At Top Of Stairs** – Pressure mounted gates are prone to being pushed over by a physically active child. No matter how you install them, a determined child can push so hard that the gate actually becomes dislodged and now you have a gate and a child tumbling down the stairs. If you want to use them near stairs, make certain that they are mounted at least 30" behind the top step so that if they do indeed fall over, the child won't go down the stairs.
- ◆ **Tripping Hazard** – The metal pressure mounted gates have a bottom rail at the opening. These can easily create a tripping hazard, especially for an adult at the top of stairs. This can be especially bad if they are carrying a child.
- ◆ **Mounting Perpendicular To Walls and/or Posts** – Pressure mounted gates have to be mounted perpendicular to their opening, otherwise they are very easy to dislodge. And you want to make certain the pads the pressure-mounted gates have fully cover the areas where that they are in contact on either side.
- ◆ **Mount Them Over Wall Studs** – You want to ensure that the pressure that the gate will exert into the wall. If you are not careful, you can actually "crater" the drywall with the wall posts, which will be an expensive and time consuming repair.
- ◆ **Hassles Of Mounting / Removing / Remounting** – Metal pressure-mounted gates have to be removed each time you want the gate to be out of your way. This actually is quite aggravating as you have to spend time removing them and the remounting. Instead, consider using a good hardware-mounted gate that can be very easy to remove from the wall or posts mounts in seconds.
- ◆ **Hardware Mounted Gates Do Less Damage** – Properly installed with wall or post mounts, hardware mounted gates will leave relatively small holes in the drywall, which are easy to patch. Pressure mounted gates can also scrape the drywall if it is not properly installed.

The unfortunate thing of this is that most people think that pressure-mounted gates are a good alternative, but don't realize that they are prone to causing more injuries and damage, and are generally more difficult to use. Properly installed hardware-mounted gates are not only safer, but usually easier to use on a daily basis.

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