



90% of Windows Can Allow Children to fall through Screen

Many times parents childproof their homes for things that will happen to toddlers, but forget that there are still issues for children that are as old as 7 years old. This includes preventing falls out of windows, which can be a tragic event. Most parents incorrectly believe that a screen will keep a child in. Unfortunately, that is not the case a child at an open window will press against the screen looking out and actually push the mesh out of the screen frame. But it is relatively easy to prevent these accidents.

WINDOW HAZARDS

- ◆ **Operation** – Newer windows open much easier than in the past. Further, locks are also easy for a child to use.
- ◆ **Screen Hazards** - Quite a number of people think that the screen should be able to keep a child safe. But all the screen is designed to do is to keep insects out. Unfortunately, if a child is in front of an open window, they lean against the screen and they fall through the window as the mesh will pull out of the screen frame.
- ◆ **Partially Opened Casement Windows** – Casement windows are the type that you crank out and if the window. Even though a parent may have only opened the window a small amount, these windows will actually “give”, that being open a bit more when being pushed. A child may not fully fall out of a window of this sort, but they may actually get caught at their neck.

WINDOW SAFETY SOLUTIONS

- ◆ **Window Guards** – The best way to safeguard a window is the by the use of window guards. These are metal rail devices that are in front of the window but will allow the window to open but prevent a child from falling through the window.
- ◆ **Window Stops** – These are devices that can be mounted on windows prevent them from opening more than 3”. There are a variety of different ones on the market. These are good for horizontally sliding windows where the stops can be mounted very high on the window away from where a child can reach them. Unfortunately for vertically sliding windows, they are sometimes low enough for a child to remove them, thus allowing them to fully open the windows.
- ◆ **Tethers** – These are devices that are screw-mounted on the frame of the window. These also prevent the window from opening too much.
- ◆ **Hook & Eyes With A Chain** - You can also attach a chain with a hook & eye to tie these windows to their frames, preventing them from opening more than 3”. In doing this, use a hook & eye with spring-clasp and chains that have a pull strength high enough to prevent it from breaking.
- ◆ **Removing Casement Window Crank Handles** - This is the best way to prevent a child from opening casement windows. Some of these handles are held in place with a small set-screw. Others can be pulled off. If you do this, make certain all older people know where they are being stored in case of an emergency.
- ◆ **Emergencies** – Whatever is done to safeguard a window, it needs to be done such that you can exit the window in the case of a fire or other emergency. Some people have resorted to putting screws into the window preventing it from moving.

The unfortunate thing of this is that people just don't think it will happen to their child or they are just not aware of the possibility, often with very tragic consequences. A little bit of proactive work on safeguarding your windows can go a long way to keeping your children safe.

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