

## Safety Gates and Locks

### Safety Gates

Child safety gates provide parents piece of mind. Children are curious by nature and will access areas that can cause serious injury without the proper safeguarding of your home. Child safety gates will protect your children from accessing dangerous areas of your home. Safety gates can be installed at the top and bottom of staircases, used for barriers on windows and access to rooms. It is important to find the most appropriate child safety gate to suit your needs.

Safety gates can be obtained from suppliers of baby safety products and other retail outlets such as hardware stores. It may be more suitable to have a gate custom made to fit the opening.

*Kidsafe NSW* recommends that a safety gate be used at both the top and bottom of stairwells.



**Falls are the highest cause of injury to children under 5 years of age. This is because young children are still establishing the skills to determine dangers, not just in their home, but all environments.**

As a small child's head is generally larger than their body, entrapment is another hazard that causes injury when children attempt to get through a barrier, gate or balustrade.

### Half Doors

Also known as Dutch doors, these can be used to prevent children from accessing dangerous areas without blocking visibility for the carer. Half doors can be useful in:

- Kitchens
- Bathrooms
- Laundries, and
- Garages



### Balustrades

The Building Code of Australia (BCA) 3.9.2.2 requires a balustrade to be provided on any stairway. Height of the balustrade must not be less than 865mm above the nosing of the stair tread or the floor of a ramp. Openings in balustrades (including decorative balustrades) must be constructed so that any opening does not allow a 125mm sphere to pass through it. See Diagram 1. The BCA also includes measurements for safety glass.

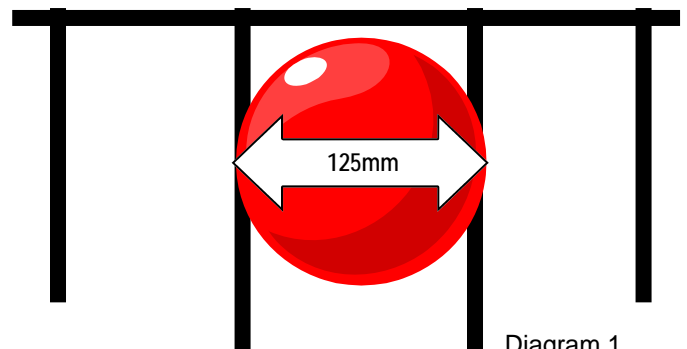


Diagram 1

**To avoid injury involving fingers or hands being trapped or crushed in hinged sides of opening and closing doors, there are a variety of safety products available to protect fingers that are easy to install to most doors.**

## Child Proof Locks

All children are inquisitive. Openings and cupboards of every type are fascinating to small children. But what is contained within may represent a hidden hazard. To avoid the risks, you can purchase products from suppliers of baby safety products and many hardware stores.

- **Window locks**—these allow windows to be opened for ventilation but prevent small children from opening them further and falling out.
- **Fridge/freezer locks**—children have been known to climb into large fridges and freezers and become trapped in them. A simple hook and loop fastener such as *Velcro* may prevent a child accessing the fridge or freezer.
- **Cupboard door and drawer locks**—it is particularly important to lock cupboards containing hazardous substances such as cleaning fluids and medicines. Lock designs vary; some are secured by screws, some by adhesive pads and some are detachable. Different styles of cupboard door require different styles of lock; some are fitted inside the cupboard, some are visible on the outside. Choose a style which suits your unit and is easy for you to use—remember you still need easy access to the cupboard even if you don't want your child opening it.

- **Toilet lid lock**— prevents young children from playing in the toilet.
- **TV and DVD locks**—these may be a guard which simply blocks the DVD or CD slot, or a visor that fits across the slot and the controls to prevent small hands posting items in or becoming trapped. Check that when fitted, the appliance still can be operated via the remote control.
- **Magnetic locks**—A magnetic lock or a pool gate magnetic lock can also be used for a number of indoor applications.

Safety products are designed to be "child proof". Children learn by watching your actions. When installing any safety product, get down to your child's level and watch what your child is able to do.

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A typical child resistant lock for kitchen cupboards

