

WINDOW RESTRICTORS

Although the fitting of window restrictors is not a legal requirement in privately rented accommodation, they are a good way to improve safety in properties that are homes to younger children.

Toddlers are naturally curious and they will start to explore their home. This leaflet offers advice on how to keep them safe.

Key recommendations

- Window restrictors should be fitted to all windows above ground floor level where those at potential risk are residents.
- Window restrictors should not allow more than an opening of 100mm.
- Restrictors should only be capable of being released by a deliberate action such as a key kept safely nearby in case of emergency.

The Child Accident Prevention Trust reports that 45 children under five years old are admitted to hospital every day following a serious fall, with some of these admissions due to falls from windows. The consequence of a fall produces physical injuries which may be severe or even fatal.

Older houses with low sill heights pose a particular risk.



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Nature of the problem

The ease of opening windows, the distance they can be opened, the height of the sill and the design all have an effect on the possibility of an accident occurring. For windows above ground floor level, the ease of cleaning from inside also effects the chance of an accident.

Fit child proof restrictors

In order to minimise the risk, it is recommended that safety restrictors be fitted to all windows above ground floor level.

The guidance on restrictors is as follows:

- The initial movement of an opening window to be restricted to not more than 100mm.
- The restrictor should be releasable only by manipulation.
- The restrictor is only capable of being released by deliberate action to permit the window to be opened fully.
- The restrictor should automatically re-engage when closed.

When fitted with a restrictor, windows should conform to the requirements of BS 6375 Part 2 Specification for Operation and Strength Characteristics loading of Windows and withstand a force of 600 Newtons should anyone accidentally fall against it in the restricted position.



Examples of suitable and unsuitable window restrictors

Additional tips for parents and carers of children

Young children are naturally curious, and once they have learned to walk they will start to explore as a key part of their development. You can help them do this more safely by:

- Keeping furniture away from windows to prevent children climbing onto a windowsill.
- Items such as a toy box are a ready-made step for toddlers so keep them away from windows.
- If children live in a home with a balcony, they should be taught to keep away from the balcony unless supervised and doors to balconies should be locked when not in use.

Further resources

DASH Services is a Private Rented Sector service for Local Authorities, Landlords & Tenants and is hosted by Derby City Council on behalf of a number of different Councils across England.

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The Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS)

Falls directly from one level to another where the drop is greater than 300mm. It includes falls from balconies and landings.

Find out more at [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

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