

# Think (child safe)

## WINDOWS AND BALCONIES

Each year around 50 children fall from windows or balconies. Many suffer serious injuries. Sometimes these falls are fatal.

There are steps you can take to **help prevent these incidents.**

### WINDOW SAFETY

- ✓ Do fix windows open at no more than 10cm (and ensure they can only be opened by adults), or fit secure window guards.
- ✓ Do keep furniture and other things children can climb on, away from windows.
- ✓ Do keep an eye out for potentially dangerous windows when visiting other people's homes and keep a close eye on your child.
- ✓ Do cover low windows with shatter resistant film if safety glass is not installed, to prevent children from cutting themselves if they run into them.
- ✗ Don't rely on flyscreens to keep children in – they are designed to keep insects out, they are not strong enough to hold children in.

### BALCONY SAFETY

- ✓ Do lock doors and windows when the balcony is not being used.
- ✓ Do take notice of balcony rails/fences. The standards older buildings were built under (that continue to apply to them) may be different from today's standards. New rails/fences on balconies must be at least 1m high, with no gaps wider than 12.5cm. On high balconies footholds must be restricted to prevent climbing.
- ✓ Do keep an eye out for potentially dangerous balconies when visiting other people's homes and keep a close eye on your child.
- ✗ Don't put furniture and pot plants near balcony edges, because children can climb or stand on them.
- ✗ Don't put lightweight furniture on the balcony. Children can drag it to the edge.

**For more information, visit:**

[www.health.nsw.gov.au/childsafety](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/childsafety)  
[www.kidsafensw.org](http://www.kidsafensw.org)

