

A Caregiver's Guide to

Home Safety



Caregiver's Guide to Home Safety

When an aging family member returns home from a stay in the hospital or a nursing facility, ensuring their safety is a priority. Assessing the home can help you prepare for their return and determine if modifications are necessary for safe and independent living.

To help caregivers evaluate their loved one's home, the following questions can serve as a guide when assessing risk factors and their safety.

Throughout the Home:

- Are all walking surfaces cleared of clutter?
- Are carpets, rugs and floor mats slip resistant?
- Is furniture secured and placed appropriately for mobility?
- Are steps in good condition with secure handrails?
- Is there sufficient lighting throughout the house?
- Have the batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors been replaced?
- Are the heating and cooling systems properly working?
- Are electrical cords in good condition and out of the way?
- Is there a phone accessible and are emergency numbers posted?
- Would they be willing to use an emergency response system?



In the Kitchen:

- Is your loved one able to recognize when appliances are on or warm from use?
- Are electrical appliances functioning? Are they placed safely away from water sources?
- Is there a fire extinguisher in case of emergency?
- Is your loved one able to shop for groceries alone or do they require assistance?

In the Bathroom:

- Is the bathroom equipped with secure grab bars?
- Does the shower/tub have a transfer bench for accessibility?
- Are the floor mats slip resistant?
- Are medications stored in proper containers? Can your loved one manage their own medications?
- Does your loved one require assistance for personal care and grooming?

In the Bedroom:

- Will your loved one be able to get in and out of bed on their own?
- Do they require a hospital bed during the transition?

Outside of the Home:

- Is the entry way into the home well-lit?
- Are the external stairs in good condition? Do they have secure handrails in place?
- Have you secured a snow removal service during the winter months?

After reviewing the guide and assessing your loved one's home, you can better determine their ability to live independently, or if they will require modifications or extra assistance.

If your loved one requires additional help, home care services are available throughout the transition. From skilled nursing care to assistance with personal care and grooming, home care can provide comprehensive services to meet the individualistic needs of each patient and family.

Referrals Made Easy: 1-877-698-6264

For caregiver support and resources, visit www.VNAOhio.org

Contact us

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1-877-698-6264
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About VNA of Ohio

Visiting Nurse Association of Ohio provides high-quality comprehensive home health and hospice care to promote health, independence, and dignity to those living in the communities we serve.

Founded in 1902, the organization has built a legacy for helping individuals and their families as they experience a health related situation. Today, we continue to provide expert services that will allow individuals to remain in the comfort of their homes.