

Babyproofing at Grandma's House

Of course, Grandma's a pro when it comes to loving baby. But her home may no longer be as safe as it was when you were a little one. Send her a safety checklist in advance, and she'll have her place babyproofed by the time you arrive.

Whether your baby is a newborn or already taking her first steps, here are some helpful tips to keep her out of harm's way.

- Put safety locks on drawers, cabinets, and toilets. And don't forget safety gates to keep a crawling baby or toddler away from stairs or other potential danger spots.
- Clear all areas of small objects that can be ingested. Check the environment, then check it again, and keep your eyes out for anything that might have fallen on the floor once you get there.
- Keep small appliances unplugged and put away when not in use, and never leave loose or dangling cords lying around.
- Place safety covers on all open electrical outlets.
- Set the hot water heater no higher than 120 degrees.
- Hang ornaments a little higher on the tree this year.
- Avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable or that have small, removable parts that could be choking hazards. Skip ornaments that look like candy or food—your little one might be tempted to eat them.
- Keep your lit menorah or holiday candles out of your baby's reach, and don't place candles on a tablecloth that your child could pull on.
- Watch out for holiday plants. Poinsettias, holly berries, amaryllis, and mistletoe are toxic if eaten.
- Check all tree lights—even if they're brand-new—before stringing them. Make sure there are no frayed wires, broken sockets, or loose connections. Then block your baby's access to the electrical cord so he can't pull the tree down with it.

Travel Essentials



- Medical information, including contact numbers for your pediatrician and insurance cards.
- First aid kit.
- Extra clothing for you and your baby.
- Baby wipes or damp washcloths should be stored in a resealable container.
- Diapers, diapers, and more diapers.
- Extra large plastic bags for garbage or soiled clothes and diapers.
- Warm blanket for chilly planes or airports.
- Several toys, including a few new (and therefore more amusing) items. You can also put a few toys away a few weeks before you go and bring them out as you travel.
- Breast pump, if you use one.

