

Did a hurricane hit your home?



By Chris Loomis, Safety Expert

How would you rate your home in terms of it being a safe environment? Is it a safe place to dwell or is it messy most of the time? Is this your home?

Toys are scattered everywhere. Hubby left papers, books and his coffee mug on the coffee table. The teenager left a mess all over the kitchen counter and even spilled mashed potatoes and juice in the kitchen floor. There are tennis shoes carelessly thrown in the middle of the living room floor. Out back there's a bicycle blocking the back door.



How safe is your home?

If this is your home, then it's time you did something about it. Because safety at home is everyone's job, so be sure to get those kids involved as well.

Your first step toward making your home a safer place to dwell is to have a family meeting. Discuss the importance of putting things away. Make a list of the most critical areas of concern. Some of the places you might want to start are:

- **Cords.** Check to make sure all cords are wrapped up and not carelessly left lying in a walkway or under a throw rug.
- **Bathrooms.** How's your bathtub? Is it a little slippery? It might need a rubber pad or non-skid strips.
- **Poisons.** Every household has many poisons, such as cleaning products under the sink or chemicals out in the garage. If you have small children or pets, then these must be placed up high out of reach.
- **Stairs.** If there are stairs in your home, be sure to keep them free of all obstacles. Make it TABOO to leave any item on the stairs.
- **Walkways.** Be mindful to keep all walkways free of obstacles such as toys, bicycles, shoes, etc.

A safe home doesn't just happen. It's everyone's job. Each family member must do his or her part. Why not make up some check lists of areas that are problematic. Talk to your family about ways to make these areas safer. Make it a priority. Your family's health could depend on it.

Safety is an attitude that begins in our thoughts. We can create an accident-free environment at home and at work if we believe we can and are committed to the process.

Chris has more than 20 years of professional safety experience. As the marketing manager for DuPont's environmental and safety services, he has seen first-hand the safety challenges faced by plant personnel while working with more than 600 chemical, petrochemical, and manufacturing facilities. Chris is an award-winning international safety speaker and author.

For more information or to book your next safety speaker, please visit <http://www.safetyattitude.com> or call Chris Loomis at 713-927-6592.