

# Home safety for individuals with a dementia diagnosis



Many people with a dementia diagnosis can live safely at home in the early stages of the condition, or live at home with a caregiver as long as precautions are taken to make the environment safe.

Complete both the general Home Safety Assessment and this assessment, which addresses concerns specific to a person with a cognitive impairment.

<b>General</b>	<p>Review safety precautions regularly. Your loved one's needs and abilities may change. Be aware that items that are part of typical daily use may present problems if your loved one no longer understands their use or is no longer able to use them safely.</p> <p>Keep the environment uncluttered and consistent. This is especially important for people with dementia.</p>
<b>Appliances</b>	<p>Consider devices with automatic shut-off features (for example, ovens, toasters, electric kettles).</p> <p>Remove or place out of sight and reach appliances that are not in use.</p> <p>Keep power tools out of sight and reach.</p>
<b>Household Chemicals &amp; Medications</b>	<p>Place household cleaners, matches, and chemicals, such as paint, motor oil, antifreeze in cabinets with safety devices or locks.</p> <p>Remove toxic plants and flowers.</p> <p>Remove home decorating items, such as plastic fruit, that might be mistaken for food and accidentally ingested.</p> <p>Keep medications in locked cabinets.</p>
<b>Weapons &amp; Firearms</b>	<p>Keep firearms unloaded and under lock and key.</p> <p>Store ammunition separately from the firearm.</p>
<b>Door &amp; Window Locks</b>	<p>Remove locks from bathroom doors and the doors of other rooms where your loved one might accidentally get locked inside.</p> <p>Install outside doors and window locks in out-of-sight places, for example at the top or bottom of the door or window frame.</p>