

Window guards
are the best way
to prevent
window falls

Boston Public Health Commission
Injury Prevention Program

OUR PURPOSE

Over a span of six months in 1993, 18 children in the Boston area fell from windows. Three of them died.

Falls are the leading cause of injury to children age 5 and under. Window falls can cause serious injury, but they can be prevented. Through education, partnerships and technology, we have reduced the risk of children falling from windows.

CONTACT US

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Injury Prevention Program
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A Guide to Child Window
Safety & Window Guards

WINDOW FALLS PREVENTION

BOSTON
PUBLIC
HEALTH
COMMISSION



WHAT ARE WINDOW GUARDS?



- Aluminum or steel bars with a maximum 4-inch spacing that are installed in the bottom half of a double hung window.
- Window screens are designed to keep bugs out and are not strong enough to prevent a window fall. Guards are designed to withstand 150 pounds of pressure.
- Removable window guards have an emergency-release mechanism so that they can be easily removed by an adult in the event of a fire. Removable guards are recommended by the Boston Fire Department.
- Fixed window guards cannot be removed, and must not be installed on any emergency or fire escape window.

WHO NEEDS WINDOW GUARDS?

- Any family with children 10 years old and under should have window guards.
- Guards should be installed in children's and parents' bedrooms as well as other rooms where young children spend time.
- Grandparents and caregivers should also have window guards.
- Window guard installation is recommended for windows on the 2nd floor and above, and for the 1st floor if the windows are 12 feet or more above the ground.
- Window guards are not needed on windows that are permanently locked shut, open from the top, or have stops installed which prevent the window from opening more than 4 inches.

SAFETY TIPS

1. Lock all unopened windows and doors.
2. Keep furniture or anything a child can climb on away from windows.
3. Open windows from the top, not the bottom.
4. Be sure children are always supervised near open windows.
5. Install child safety window guards.

WHERE CAN I GET WINDOW GUARDS?

Many local home improvement and hardware stores carry window guards.

Boston residents can purchase low-cost window guards at:



Boston Building Resources
100 Terrace St, Boston, MA 02120
617-442-2262
bostonbuildingresources.com

Installation of window guards is voluntary. Ask your landlord about installing them in your building.

Boston Housing Authority (BHA) residents should call the BHA Work Order Center to request window guards

BHA Work Order Line at: 617-988-4357