

Home Care Safety Checklist

Use this checklist to ensure safety measures are practiced in your clients' homes and when transporting clients. The expectation is that answers to all of the items below (if applicable) is 'yes.' If an item is answered 'no' or if there are concerns about any items listed, caregivers must discuss the issue with a supervisor and/or the client's family.

Inside the Home

- Proper body mechanics are used to lift or move objects 25 pounds or less
- The height of the bed is properly adjusted, if possible
- Assistive devices are used, where available and if appropriate
- Shoes with good tread and that fit well are worn at all times
- Properly sized pants that do not touch the floor are worn
- Floors, walkways, and stairs are cleared of debris, material, cords, and other tripping hazards
- Floors and walkways are clear of liquid or moisture
- Heavy objects and materials are stored on lower shelves
- Furniture is positioned to provide a clear traffic area
- Furniture on wheels is eliminated or has locking wheels
- Pathways into the residence, and from room to room, are clear
- Objects with sharp edges are padded (if allowed by the client)
- Walkways are in good condition (no uneven or broken sections)
- Interior and exterior lighting is good
- Working flashlights are available
- Stairs are in good condition (not slanted or loose) and are well lit
- Handrails are securely fastened to the wall
- Carpeting on stairs is in good condition (not slick or worn)
- Essential extension/electrical cords are secured to the floor or wall, and are in good condition (not frayed or wiring exposed)
- Nonessential extension/electrical cords are picked up and stored in a proper location
- Drawers and filing cabinets are closed when not in use
- Rugs, carpets, and door mats are not frayed or curled
- Rugs and mats are not placed at the top or bottom of stairs
- Room dividers aren't raised or bent out of place
- Non-skid mats or decals are placed on shower/bathtub floor
- If grab bars have been installed in the bathroom, they are securely in place
- The bathroom contains a safe place for client to sit while taking care of bathroom tasks
- The distance to bathroom is not too far for client
- The bathroom is proper size and not too small or restrictive
- Working smoke detectors and fire extinguishers are installed
- Lit candles are extinguished
- Stove/oven is turned off when not in use
- An emergency evacuation plan has been developed
- Animals are in a safe, secure place (e.g. cage or kennel)

Vehicles

- Client's seatbelt is secured properly, in addition to your seatbelt
- Shoulder belt is not placed behind the client's back or under the arm
- Client is secured in back seat where appropriate
- Driving distractions have been eliminated (such as cell phones)
- Vehicle walk-around inspection completed
- Vehicle engine, steering, lights, etc. are working properly
- Vehicle mirrors are in proper position
- Driving directions are obtained ahead of time (before driving begins)
- Smoking is not allowed in the vehicle
- Plenty of driving time is allowed
- All traffic laws are observed