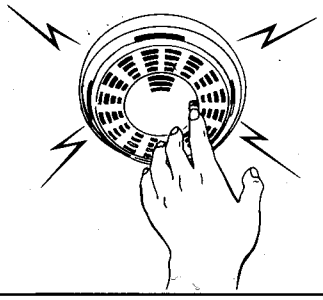
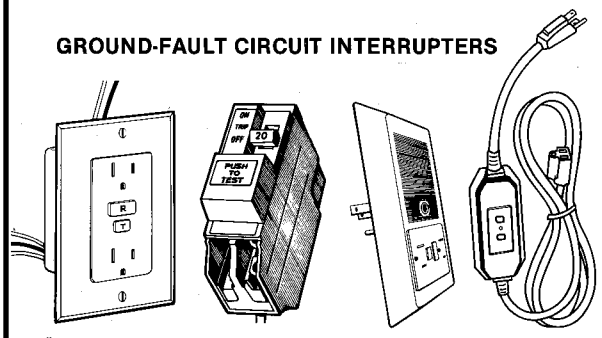
Consumer Product Safety Alert

FROM THE U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20207

Safety Devices Help Prevent Deaths and Injuries

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recommends that consumers purchase and use safety devices to help prevent deaths and injuries associated with hazards in or around the home.

HAZARD AND ANNUAL TOLL		SAFETY DEVICE
Home Fires (4,400 deaths, thousands of injuries)		**Smoke detectors** cost as little as $10 each, and you need at least one smoke detector per floor per household. Fire extinguishers also are available for as little as $10 each.
Bicycles (800 deaths, 500,000 injuries)		**Bicycle helmets** can reduce head injuries by up to 85%. Helmets range in price from $20 to $150. Each rider needs a properly-fitted helmet.
Electrocutions (300 electrocution deaths, thousands of electric shock injuries) GROUND-FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTERS  RECEPTACLE / CIRCUIT BREAKER / PORTABLE PLUG-IN / PORTABLE CORD TYPE		**Ground-fault circuit-interrupters (GFCIs)** for electrical circuits can help prevent deaths and serious injuries. Portable GFCIs are available at prices ranging from $12 to $30. Receptacle GFCIs cost between $9 and $13, and circuit breaker GFCIs cost $35 to $50, not including installation. **Hair dryers with built-in shock protection** can help prevent electrocution deaths. The protected hair dryers cost about $5 more than hair dryers without this feature.

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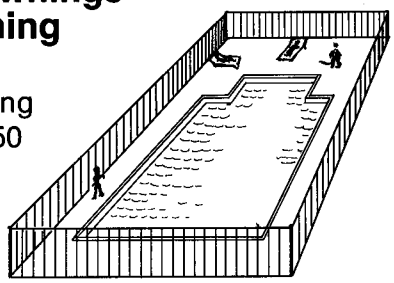
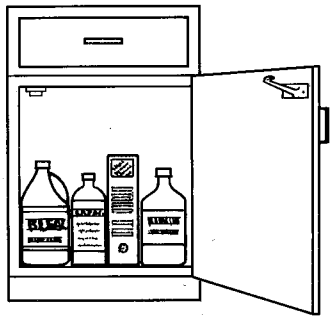
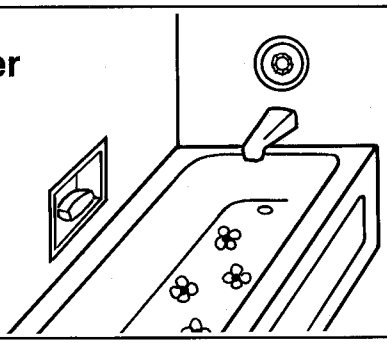
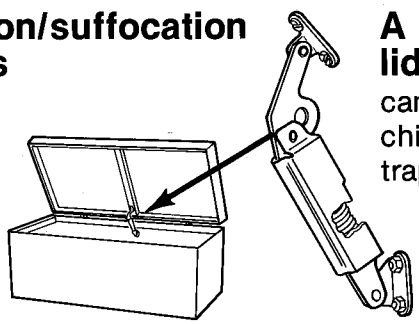
Safety Devices Help Prevent Deaths and Injuries (Continued)

HAZARD AND ANNUAL TOLL	SAFETY DEVICE
Child drownings in swimming pools (300 drowning deaths, 2,350 injuries treated in emergency rooms) 	**A fence surrounding all four sides with self-closing and self-latching gates** around swimming pools can cost as little as $3.50 per linear foot. If the fence perimeter is 300 feet, the price could be $1,050.
Poisonings (42 deaths, approximately one million exposures to medicines or household chemicals) 	**Safety latches for kitchen, bathroom, and workshop cabinets** can help keep household chemicals and medicines locked up away from children. Use the child-resistant closures that come on most medicines and chemicals. Safety closures save lives.
Tap water scalds (34 deaths, 3,800 burn injuries) 	**Anti-scald devices** range in price from $15 to $75, not including installation. Anti-scald devices can keep water temperature below 120 degrees Fahrenheit to help prevent scald burns.
Strangulation/suffocation with chests used to store toys (3 deaths, several injuries) 	**A spring-loaded lid-support device** can keep a lid from falling on a child's neck or from closing and trapping a child playing inside the chest. This device costs about $7.50 and should be used on all chests that store toys.