



WHY DOES THIS HAPPEN?

People with Alzheimer's or dementia might:

- trip because of changes in balance or trouble walking
- have problems seeing clearly due to poor eyesight
- forget to turn off water, burners, ovens
- forget how to use knives, etc. or where to safely place burning objects

Keeping Home Safe

People with Alzheimer's or dementia may have trouble knowing what is dangerous or making safe decisions. By helping him or her feel more relaxed and less confused at home, you can help stop accidents.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Keep Things Simple

- make sure rooms are neat
- place "often used" items in the same place
- remove things that might break and aren't needed

Look at the Floor

- remove small rugs, rugs that are thick, or rugs that might slide on floors
- don't shine or wax floors
- keep items off floors... cords, books, toys, bags, boxes, etc.
- make sure bathroom and kitchen floors are kept dry and avoid walking with wet feet
- use tables and chairs that are stable enough to lean on

Remove Dangerous Items

- keep all medicines... vitamins, aspirin, prescriptions... in a locked box, cabinet, or drawer
- place knives, scissors, guns, sharp tools, matches, and lighters out of sight or in a locked area
- move all cleaning supplies to a high shelf or lock them away
- take off knobs from the stove and oven

Don't Leave Him or Her Alone

- in the kitchen with the stove or oven on
- in the bathroom with water running
- anywhere with burning cigarettes, cigars, or pipes
- near an open or unlocked door or gate

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Alzheimer's Greater Los Angeles.

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Supported by DHHS, ACL (#90AL0002-01-00)



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