Together we can all make a greater impact in our community!

We encourage you to work with your friends, family and neighbors to ensure they live in safe and healthy homes:

SHARE these tips with others in your community.

ENCOURAGE homeowners in need of critical home repair work to contact Rebuilding Together and apply for our services.

VOLUNTEER with your local Rebuilding Together affiliate.

MAKE a contribution and invest in the health of your community!

With your support, we can build safer and healthier homes and communities.

Rebuilding Together is a leading national nonprofit in safe and healthy housing with more than 40 years of experience. Together, with our corporate and community partners, we transform the lives of low-income homeowners by improving the safety and health of their homes and revitalizing our communities. Rebuilding Together’s local affiliates and nearly 100,000 volunteers complete about 10,000 rebuild projects nationwide each year. Learn more and get involved at rebuildingtogether.org.

This home safety checklist will assist you in making important changes in your home, which will decrease the likelihood of an injury from a fall, fire or other accidents. You can make your home safer – we’re here to help!
### General
- Make sure the numerals for your address are clearly visible from the street.
- Keep important phone numbers – including police, fire, poison control and emergency services near the telephone, and be sure to write in large, easy-to-read print.
- Water leaks can cause serious damage to your home and your health – identify the cause of any leak and fix it promptly.
- Have your gutters and downspouts checked once a year to ensure they are clean and free of obstructions.
- Set your water heater no hotter than 120 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Keep low coffee tables, magazine racks, footrests and plants out of walkways.
- Remove old throw rugs and install a non-slip pad.
- Use safety plugs to cover unused electrical outlets.
- Never overload outlets, extension cords or power strips.
- Install ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) electrical receptacles in kitchen and bathrooms.

### Electrical Safety
- Do not place cords where they can be a tripping hazard and never place cords under rugs or carpets.
- Do not drape cords over space heaters, radiators or other hot surfaces.
- If possible, avoid using extension cords.

### Fire Safety
- Have a plan for escape in case of a home fire that all occupants understand, making special considerations for small children and older home occupants.
- Have an ABC-rated fire extinguisher on every floor of the house, especially in or near the kitchen.
- Be sure that everyone in the house knows how to properly operate fire extinguishers.
- Have your furnace checked once a year.
- Have your chimney and flue inspected once a year.
- Never leave a space heater, halogen lamp or open flame unattended. Do not keep any of these items close to curtains or other flammable materials.
- Make sure that all lamps and fixtures are equipped with bulbs having wattage equal to or less than the manufacturer’s suggestion.

### Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors
- Have an operating smoke and/or carbon monoxide detector on each floor of your home.
- Check batteries twice a year (when daylight savings time changes) and replace as needed.
- If anyone in your home is hearing impaired, be sure that the smoke detectors in your home alert using lights or vibrations, as well as sound.
- Unplug all portable and countertop appliances that are not in use.
- Make sure that the kitchen is well-lit.
- Clean all spills immediately
- Keep anything poisonous secure and out of reach of children.
- Use the exhaust fan when cooking to avoid moisture build up.

### Kitchen
- Be sure to have sturdy step stools and ladders on hand. Do not use a chair to reach high surfaces of your home.
- Store flammable items away from your stovetop or range:
  - Do not place rags or towels on the oven handle.
  - Store plastic utensils and pot holders away from hot surfaces.
  - Do not wear loose fitting clothing while cooking.
  - Turn pot handles away from the front of the stove.

### Halls and Entryways
- Make sure that all windows and doors to the outside close and lock securely.
- Keep keys to internal door locks close to the door and easily accessible.
- Keep hallways clear for easy passage in case of an emergency.
- Place locks where all members of the household can reach and use them.
- Be sure that any walkways to the house are free of tripping hazards.
- Widen doorways to accommodate household members who use a walker or wheelchair.
- Keep a phone near the bed.

### Stairs
- Stairs should be well-lit with switches at both the top and bottom of a stairway.
- Do not place anything on the steps – even temporarily.
- Install handrails on both sides of any stairway.

### Bathrooms
- Keep electric devices away from bathtubs and sinks.
- Keep towels and washcloths away from heaters.
- Install grab bars in the bathroom and elsewhere as needed.
- Install and/or use the exhaust fan when bathing or showering to avoid moisture build up.

### Bedrooms
- Have a lamp or light switch with a dimmer feature that you can easily reach from bed.
- Keep hot plates, space heaters and other hot appliances away from bed.
- Keep a phone near the bed.

### Basements/Laundry Room
- Clean the clothes dryers’ lint trap after each use.
- Make sure you never run the dryer when no one is home.
- Do not leave clutter on the floor – it is both a fire and a tripping hazard.