WHERE CAN I GET WINDOW GUARDS?

Many local hardware stores and home improvement stores carry window guards.

Boston residents can purchase low-cost window guards at the:

BOSTON BUILDING MATERIALS CO-OP
Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
100 Terrace St. Boston, MA 02120.
617-442-2262   www.bbmc.com

HOW CAN I REQUEST WINDOW GUARDS FROM MY LANDLORD?

Boston Housing Authority (BHA) residents can call the BHA Work Order Line at 617-988-HELP (4357).

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

For more information, please contact:

BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION
Childhood Injury Prevention Program
774 Albany St. 1st Floor, Finland Bldg.
Boston, MA 02118
617-534-5197
www.bphc.org/childinjuryprevention

Facts on Window Falls & Child Safety
Window Guards

KIDS CAN’T FLY

Thomas M. Menino, Mayor

BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION
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In just six months in 1993, eighteen children in the Greater Boston area fell from windows. Three of them died.

Falls are the leading cause of injury to children age five and under. Window falls cause serious injuries, yet they can be prevented. By combining education (see Safety Tips) and technology (window guards), we have reduced the risk of children falling from windows.

**Safety Tips to prevent window falls**

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. Install child safety window guards
5. Be sure children are always supervised

**What are child safety window guards?**

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

**Who needs window guards?**

- Any family with children under the age of seven should have window guards. Grandparents and caregivers should also have window guards.
- Window guard installation is recommended for all windows above the first floor and for the first floor if the windows are over 12 feet above the ground.
- Window guards are not needed on windows that are locked shut, or open from the top, or have stops installed which prevent the window from opening more than four inches.