



## Preventing Falls Together

# TAKE CHARGE! BY FALLPROOFING YOUR HOME

### Look at the FLOORS

#### IF YOU SEE . . .

#### **Furniture you have to walk around to get through a room**

- Ask someone to help you move the furniture to clear a path

#### **Throw rugs or loose carpets**

- Remove the rugs (best) OR
- Use double-sided tape so the rugs don't slide and the carpet edges don't curl up

#### **Clutter—like books, magazines, or shoes**

- Pick it up and store it on shelves

#### **Electrical or telephone cords where you walk**

- Tape the cords to the baseboard so they are out of the way
- Have an electrician install extra outlets so you don't need extension cords
- Switch to cordless phones

#### **Slippery, shiny floors**

- Stop using floor polish or wax
- Always wear shoes with non-slip soles
- Wipe up spills immediately

#### **A pet sleeping in your path**

- Stay alert and always know where your pet is
- Try to train your pet to sleep in one place

### Look at the STAIRS inside and outside

#### IF YOU SEE . . .

#### **Clutter or other objects—like flowerpots**

- Remove them
- Keep stairs clear

#### **Shaky, broken, uneven, or missing steps**

- Repair them OR
- Find a handyman, volunteer or family member to repair them and keep them in good shape

#### **Smooth, slippery steps**

- Put non-slip treads on each step
- Paint outdoor steps with a mixture of sand and paint for better traction
- Paint the edges of outdoor steps a contrasting colour so they are easier to see

#### **Loose or torn carpet on stairs**

- Make sure the carpet is attached on every step OR
- Remove the carpet and use non-slip treads on each step

#### **Stairs with no handrails or with shaky or broken handrails**

- Fix the handrails or have new ones installed
- Be sure there are handrails on both sides of the stairs and that they go all the way from the top to the bottom of the stairs



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# TAKE CHARGE! BY FALLPROOFING YOUR HOME

### Look at the **LIGHTING** in your home.

#### IF YOU SEE . . .

#### **Dimly lit halls and rooms**

- Use brighter bulbs—100 watts
- Use light fixtures with more than one bulb so if one bulb burns out, you will still be able to see until it gets replaced
- Use night lights in hallways

#### **No lights or dim lighting on stairs**

- Have an electrician install lights and light switches at the top and bottom of the stairs

#### **No light switch within reach when you stand in the doorway of each room**

- Have an electrician install a light switch near the entry to each room

### Look at your **KITCHEN**.

#### IF YOU SEE . . .

#### **Items you often use stored on hard-to-reach shelves**

- Move pots, pans and other items you use often to waist-high, easy-to-reach places
- Store heavy items in lower cupboards

#### **A chair or an unsteady step stool used for reaching high places**

- Get a sturdy step stool with a safety rail to hold on to
- Never use a chair for climbing

### Look at your **BATHROOM**.

#### IF YOU SEE . . .

#### **A slippery floor in tub or shower**

- Use a non-slip rubber bath mat or put non-slip strips on the tub or shower floor

#### **Nothing sturdy to hold onto when getting out of the tub or off the toilet**

- Have a handyman or carpenter install grab bars around the tub, shower, and toilet
- If you have trouble getting up from the toilet, install a raised toilet seat
- If you ever feel dizzy or tired while bathing, put a bath seat in the tub or shower

### Look at your **BEDROOM**

#### IF YOU SEE . . .

#### **No clear path between the bed and the bathroom**

- Clear a path. Get help if you need to move furniture.
- Make sure the path is free of clutter
- Install automatic night lights along the way so you can find your way in the dark

#### **No light or phone within reach of the bed**

- Install a lamp or light switch that you can reach without getting out of bed
- Keep a phone within reach
- Keep a flashlight by your bed