



WINDOW GUARDS AND STOPS FACT SHEET

Window screens are designed to keep bugs out, not kids in. A window screen will fall out if a child pushes on it so it's important to install window guards or stops on your windows to prevent window falls.

What are window guards and stops?



Window Guards

- Adjustable metal or aluminum grates with bars no more than 4 inches apart.
- Installed by screwing the guard into the window frame.
- Prevent children from falling out of an open window.
- Work with all types of windows.
 - May need to be hung vertically in sliding or casement windows.
- Usually cost between \$10 and \$30.

Window Stops

- Installed on the window frame or the upper window.
- Keep the window from opening more than 4 inches.
- Work with single-hung, double-hung, or sliding windows.
- Cost as little as \$2.



Where do I need window guards and stops?

- In any home with children under 5 years old or any home a child under 5 visits often. To provide the most protection, consider installing window guards and stops for homes with children up to 11 years old.
- In any room that a child spends time in, especially living rooms, bedrooms, and sleeping areas.
- On any window on the second story or higher.
- If you rent, ask your landlord to purchase and install window guards or stops for you.



Where do I buy window guards and stops?

- Online
- In hardware stores and home improvement stores.
 - These may be sold with child-proofing and safety products, or they may be sold with other window-related products. Ask a salesperson for help if you can't find them.

How do I use window guards and stops?

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions to make sure you install the window guards and stops correctly.
- Practice the quick release feature when your children are not in the same room. Children tend to copy what they see adults doing.

Use this ruler to see where to install window stops. Window stops should allow a window to open no more than 4 inches.



What else do I need to know before I buy window guards and stops?

- Make sure the window guard or stop has a quick release feature so the window guard or stop can be opened or released without any extra tools or force.
- Only buy window guards that screw into the sides of the window frame. Spring-loaded window guards can be dislodged and may not prevent falls.
- Make sure the window guard isn't a security guard. Security guards are fixed in place; window guards can be opened or removed in an emergency.
- Only purchase window guards with bars that are 4 inches or less apart.
- Look for window stops that relock automatically.
- If you're shopping for new windows, ask about ones with a built-in stop at 4 inches.

