

## 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](http://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. 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Finland Bldg.

Boston, MA 02118

617-534-5197

[www.bphc.org/childinjuryprevention](http://www.bphc.org/childinjuryprevention)

# KIDS CAN'T FLY



**Thomas M. Menino, Mayor**

### **BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION**

Childhood Injury Prevention Program

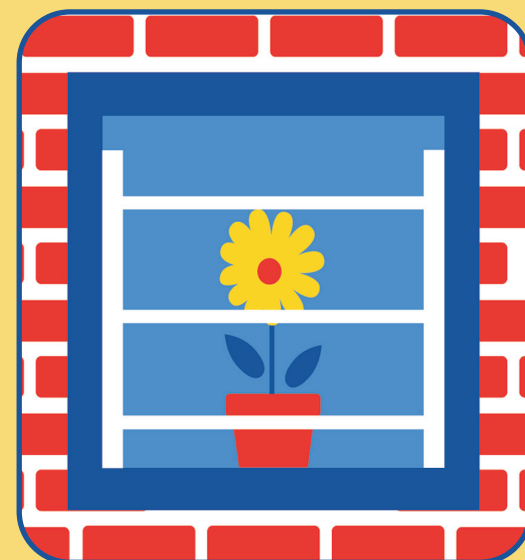
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# KIDS CAN'T FLY



## Facts on Window Falls & Child Safety Window Guards



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.