

27th April 2010

IAEM urges care during spring-cleaning and during the good weather

The recent sustained spell of good weather has been a welcome break from the various floods, frost and other forms of bad weather that have been with us for months. People's thoughts and activities are turning to the garden, beach and spring-cleaning. The risk of hand and foot injuries when children are not heard approaching lawnmowers and the need to be careful of toddlers wandering into water have been highlighted previously.

Danger also lurks in the home.

While we all might want to let fresh air through our houses at this time of "spring cleaning", it is appropriate to highlight real dangers of open windows. The attraction and danger of unattended open/unlocked upstairs windows to curious toddlers is very real as is the very real risk of their falling out of them. Forward and outward opening windows are a particular concern. These should have protectors fitted limiting their excursion so a child can't fit out through them.

Many Emergency Departments in the country have seen children present with serious injuries sustained from falling out of such windows. We strongly recommend that the doors of rooms with open windows should be locked when an adult leaves them, if young children are around to "help" with the cleaning.

Is it worth your child falling out to let the sun in? We don't think so.

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