

IMPROVE HOME SAFETY

for people living with Alzheimer's or Dementia

Alzheimer's disease and other dementias can affect safety by causing changes to judgment, sense of time and place, behavior, physical ability, and the senses. Thus, home safety measures are essential to helping individuals experiencing dementia live in the comfort of their own or a caregiver's home. Here's are some tips for caregivers on home safety:

GET STARTED

Contact Boston's [Home Center Repair Loan Program](http://boston.gov/departments/housing/boston-home-center/how-apply-home-repair-loan) (boston.gov/departments/housing/boston-home-center/how-apply-home-repair-loan | 617-635-4663) or the [Alzheimer's Association](http://alz.org) (alz.org | 800-272-3900) for guidance and resources to begin making your home safe.



MAKE A CHECKLIST

Tour your home and make a checklist of things to fix or obtain a general checklist from the [Alzheimer's Association](http://alz.org) for people with dementia.

INSPECT ROOMS

Following your checklist, make appropriate changes to your:

- Bedrooms
- Bathrooms
- Kitchen
- Entryway
- Living room
- Laundry Room
- Garage/Shed/Basement
- Front and Back Yard

Make sure to:

- Remove tripping hazards.
- Secure large furniture.
- Lock up medications.
- Install sufficient lighting.
- Inspect carbon monoxide and smoke detectors and fire extinguishers regularly.
- Monitor usage of any appliance or have an automatic shut-off.
- Keep chemical hazards out of sight.
- Support the person's needs.



ASSESS AND REASSESS

Remember that dementia progresses and symptoms can worsen over time. Regularly reassess needs and make any appropriate changes.

MORE RESOURCES

Alzheimers.gov | www.alzheimers.gov
Federal government portal to information and resources on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias

- [Tips for Home Safety:](http://www.alzheimers.gov/life-with-dementia/tips-caregivers#tips-for-home-safety-for-people-with-dementia)
www.alzheimers.gov/life-with-dementia/tips-caregivers#tips-for-home-safety-for-people-with-dementia

AARP | www.aarp.org

- [Safe Home Care Guide:](http://www.aarp.org/caregiving/home-care/info-2017/dementia-home-safety.html)
www.aarp.org/caregiving/home-care/info-2017/dementia-home-safety.html
 - A step-by-step guide to preparing a safe home for loved ones with dementia

Boston Home Center | www.boston.gov

- [How To Apply for A Home Repair Loan:](http://www.boston.gov/departments/housing/boston-home-center/how-apply-home-repair-loan)
www.boston.gov/departments/housing/boston-home-center/how-apply-home-repair-loan
 - Resources for Boston homeowners, homebuyers and loan management information

Meet Caregivers | www.meetcaregivers.com

- [Home Safety for Dementia:](http://www.meetcaregivers.com/home-safety-for-dementia-patients/)
www.meetcaregivers.com/home-safety-for-dementia-patients/
 - General home safety, preventing wandering and elopement, addressing driving

Commonwealth of Massachusetts | www.mass.gov

- [Home Modification Loan Program \(HMLP\) Resources:](http://www.mass.gov/service-details/hmlp-resources-and-links)
www.mass.gov/service-details/hmlp-resources-and-links
 - Funding sources for home modifications

