

How to prevent accidents at home

Domestic accidents are common in Hong Kong. From small cuts to serious burns, many people have accidentally injured themselves. What should we do to avoid becoming accident victims in our tiny flats? Home design expert Ms Dorothy Ma has some tips for you:

1. **Do not place your furniture along corridors or near doors.** Putting furniture or other items in your path means you cannot move around freely. Many people hurt themselves when they trip over cables and coffee tables. You should leave space for yourself so that you do not have trouble moving around at home.
2. **Do not leave your bathrooms wet and untidy.** Hong Kong is hot and humid in summer. People may slip and fall on bathroom floors because they do not notice that the floors are wet and slippery. You should check that your bathroom tiles are dry and do not have a layer of moisture on their surface. You can place non-slip mats on the floor of the bathroom. You should also check that you do not leave your dirty laundry on the floor.
3. **Be careful when handling wires and sockets.** You should not connect several electrical appliances to a single socket to prevent short circuit and fire. Organise them neatly but do not tie them too tightly or keep them in contact with hot surfaces.
4. **Use household appliances only when necessary.** Some people install many household appliances such as dishwashers and microwave ovens in their small kitchens. The more crowded your kitchen is, the more likely you will have an accident there. Some appliances are not necessary for preparing everyday meals. You should put them away and connect them to the power supply only when necessary. This can save more space for dishes and food to prevent them from falling.

If there are any accidents, do not panic and call for help immediately if necessary. Accidents cannot be avoided completely but steps can be taken to prevent them. Effective prevention can reduce accidents.