



Selecting a Safety Gate Tips

It's an exciting time when baby takes her first steps. Soon she'll be toddling all over the house! For parents, this means that it's time for safety gates.

There are two types of safety gates

- **Pressure mounted gates** require no holes or hardware for installation and are best suited for less hazardous locations (like a doorway between rooms or at the bottom of the stairs.)
- **Hardware mounted child safety gates** are permanently mounted and are best for higher risk areas (like at the top of the stairs.)

Consider the following when choosing safety gates for your home

- **Where will the gate be installed?** The top of the stairs or in a doorway? If it's between rooms, a pressure-mounted gate may do the job. But if it's at the top of the stairs, hardware mounted gates should be used. Make sure that the gate doesn't swing out over the stairs.
- **What are the exact dimensions of the opening?** The widest pressure gates are about 48 inches (122 centimeters), while wall mounted gates with extensions are much larger. Special use gates are available for openings where mounting points are not in a direct line.
- **Look at the surface the gate will attach to.** If it's wood, it will be easy to mount the safety gate. If it's brick, stucco or wrought iron, you may have to purchase additional hardware to properly mount the safety gate. (Read the instruction manual or speak with someone in your local hardware store.)

Nifty features in today's safety gates

In recent years, companies like Safety 1st® have designed safety gates with features that make your life easier. Look for:

- One-hand release allows you to open and lock a gate with one hand.
- Expandable child safety gates fit doorways and openings of different sizes.
- See-through safety gates allow you full vision of baby.
- Curved gates installed at the top of the stairs allow you to access the top step and open the gate easily.
- Safety gates are important – and necessary – in any home. Your baby will be prevented from accessing off limit areas and you'll have peace-of-mind.