

Decorating Trends

ABCs For Safe Home Furnishings

(NAPSA)—As Americans increasingly turn to their homes as havens, they look for these comfort zones to be not only comfortable and inviting, but safe and secure as well. Consider these ABCs:

- **A:** awareness can help prevent accidents at home.

- **B:** bunk beds, not recommended for children under 6.

- **C:** cribs. Make sure slats or spindles are no more than 2³/₈ inches apart and none are loose.

- **D:** drawers. Never allow children to climb in drawers.

- **E:** entertainment center. Be sure it properly supports your TV so the TV won't fall forward.

- **F:** falls. Be sure rugs have slip-resistant pads, keep electrical cords out of walkways and clean up spills immediately.

- **G:** guardrails. Bunk beds should have guardrails on each side of the top bunk.

- **H:** height. If a bookcase or dresser is taller than it is wide, secure it to the wall to prevent tipover; never overload bookcases.

- **I:** ideal. The ideal furnishings for your home are not only comfortable and beautiful, but safe.

- **J:** joiners. Screws, bolts, brackets and other joiners on furniture should be tight and secure.

- **K:** kids should never be allowed to climb on furniture.

- **L:** lids and latches. Storage chests need safety latches to keep the lid from slamming shut on tiny fingers or heads.

- **M:** matches should be kept away from children.

- **N:** nighttime. Your home should be well lit at night.

- **O:** old. Be sure older furniture does not have lead paint that is flaking.

- **P:** pathways should be clutter free and well lit both inside



and outside the home.

- **Q:** quality. Buy the best you can afford—for safety's sake.

- **R:** recliner. Don't put your fingers into the mechanism.

- **S:** supervision. Small children should always be supervised.

- **T:** temptation. Don't put objects on tops of dressers or bookcases that will entice youngsters.

- **U:** UFAC, the Upholstered Furniture Action Council. When buying new upholstered furniture, look for the gold UFAC tag ensuring that the manufacturer has agreed to meet UFAC's construction criteria. The program has helped reduce furniture fires from smoldering cigarettes.

- **V:** vigilant is what you should always be when it comes to home safety.

- **W:** windows. Don't put furniture near windows where children can climb or fall out.

- **X:** X-ing out accidents.

- **Y:** yawning, leading to...

- **Z:** the ZZZs you'll catch when you know your family's safe and secure at home.

For facts on furniture styles, decorating trends and shopping tips, see the American Furniture Manufacturers Association's Web site, www.findyourfurniture.com.