



Accident prevention: How to keep your space safe

To help our community stay safe while hosting and travelling, Airbnb has partnered with the [Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents \(RoSPA\)](#) to share some top tips on how Hosts on Airbnb can ensure their space is safe and secure for all ages.

According to research by RoSPA, accidents in the home result in around 2.7 million visits to accident and emergency departments each year in the UK¹.

While issues on Airbnb are incredibly rare, by taking these small steps, you can help to reduce the risk of avoidable accidents in your space and ensure your guests have great stays.

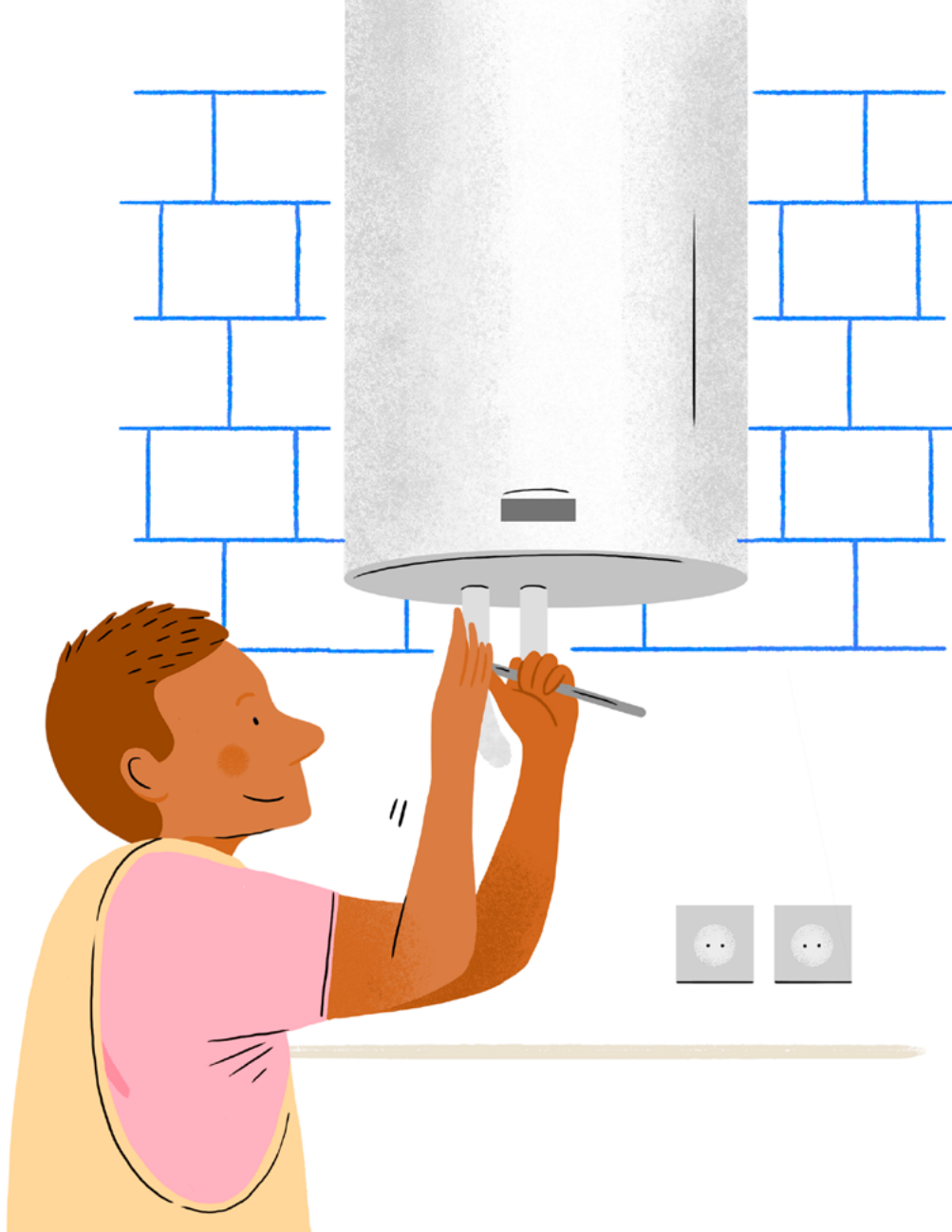
¹<https://www.rospace.com/home-safety/uk>



Install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and test them regularly

Install a smoke alarm on each floor and test it weekly. You should also install an audible carbon monoxide alarm in every room that has a gas or solid fuel appliance like a boiler, cooker or open fireplace - and make sure you follow the manufacturer's instructions to test the alarm monthly. This will help to give guests peace of mind and could save lives.

Hosts on Airbnb with an active listing can get a self-contained, battery powered combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarm for free on the Airbnb [website](#).



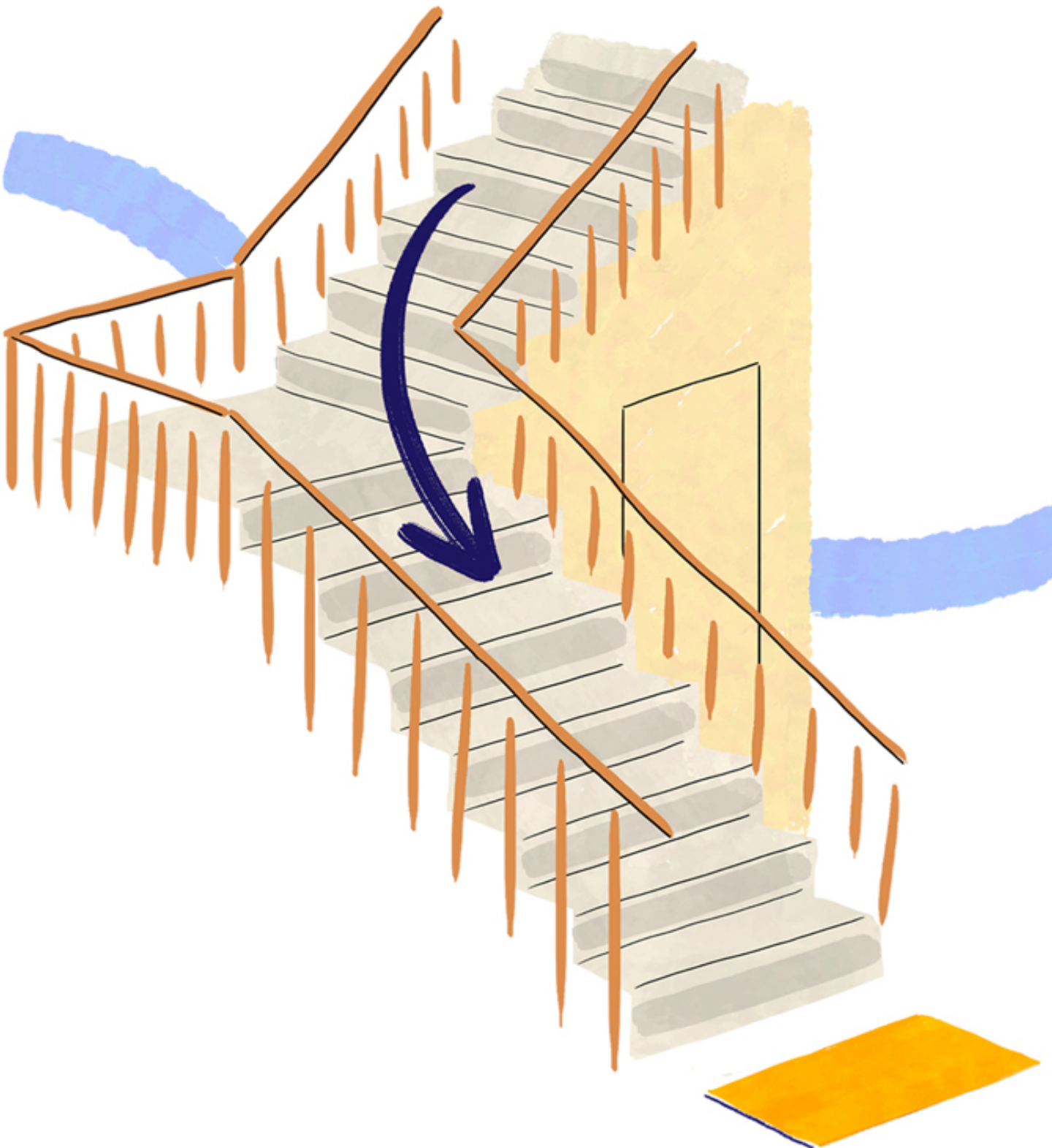
Check your wiring and electrical appliances

Make sure that your gas boiler is serviced each year by a [Gas Safe registered](#) engineer. Wood and coal stoves also need to be serviced annually to help prevent them from giving off carbon monoxide, a poisonous gas that's not easily detected.

Check that all the electrical wiring, sockets and lighting are in good condition. Don't overload sockets, and remove loose wires or worn cables. If you've got a fire or a fuel burner, it's good practice to fit a fireguard to the wall.

Keep staircases clear

If your space has stairs, make sure they're well-lit, free from clutter and have handrails where needed. Consider providing a child-safety gate and check that it fits and is working properly.



Secure loose rugs and cables

Use rug tape or an anti-slip mat under loose rugs and cable ties to secure cables. In the bathroom, put down a non-slip mat to help to prevent trips and falls in the bath and shower.



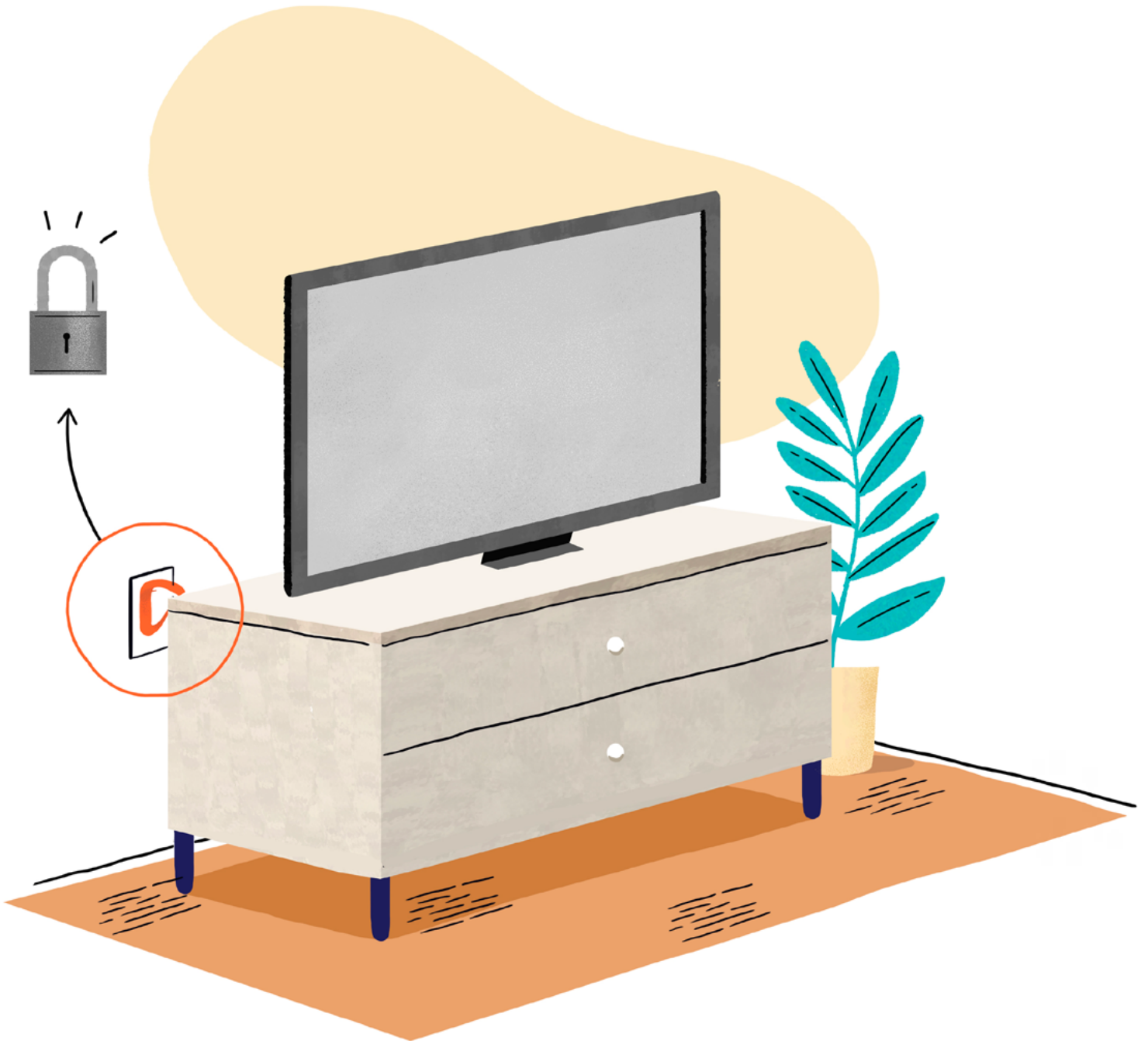
Install window restrictors

Fit upstairs windows with a restrictor. They'll let fresh air in while making sure children won't get out. Tie up blind cords using a cleat to secure them, making sure that they are out of reach. If you are fitting new blinds, make sure they conform to the current British Standard and do not have hanging looped blind cords.



Secure heavy furniture

Anchor televisions, chests of drawers, and shelving units to the wall securely. Most furniture comes with anti-tip wall straps or brackets to safeguard against this.



Lock away cleaning products

Store any harmful products including bleach, detergents, liquid laundry capsules and medicines in a locked cupboard or one that's out of reach of children.





Fit a TMV to prevent scalds in the shower

Consider installing a Thermostatic mixing valve (TMV). The valve has a sensing element that measures the temperature of the water flowing through it and adjusts the mix of hot and cold water to a set temperature which can help to prevent scalds.



Make sure outside areas are secure

Install fences around ponds, pools, and hot tubs. If you have a hot tub, remind guests to keep it covered when it's not in use or to empty it.

Secure or lock any sheds and outside storage units to keep out any curious children and pets.

Also, watch out for plants with poisonous leaves or berries, and try to avoid having them in your space or garden.



Share accident prevention tips with your guests

Before your guests come to stay, you can share this [accident prevention guide](#) with them. You can also print off a copy and add it to your guest handbook.

For more safety tips and in-depth advice from RoSPA, visit www.rospa.com.