

# Climbing Stage Safety Checklist (12 to 24 Months)

Anchor what matters and remove climbing paths before they become risks

13 items across 4 sections

## What changes when a toddler starts climbing

Climbing tends to appear in stages. First it is hands and knees onto the couch. Then a foot on the coffee table. Then a determined effort to reach a counter using a dining chair as a step. Many parents notice the third version before realizing the first two have been happening for weeks. The home that worked at ten months often needs another pass at fourteen.

- Re-walk the home assuming your toddler can reach about three feet up by climbing.
- Anchor every dresser, bookshelf, TV stand, and tall freestanding piece.
- Provide safe climbing outlets so climbing is not always discouraged.

## The climbing spots that matter most

Dressers continue to be the highest-risk furniture in this age range, especially when drawers can be opened to use as steps. A wall anchor is the single most useful upgrade you can make in a toddler's bedroom. Bookshelves, TV stands, wardrobes, and tall standing lamps belong in the same conversation.

- Anchor every tall freestanding piece of furniture in the home.
- Push dining chairs and bar stools fully in; store step stools out of reach.
- Lower the crib mattress to its lowest setting; transition to a toddler bed when climbing out begins.
- Move beds, couches, and chairs at least two feet from windows.

## Climbing in outdoor and shared spaces

Outdoor environments have their own climbing patterns. Deck railings, porch chairs near edges, retaining walls, and patio furniture all become climbing destinations. Keep furniture pulled away from drop edges and use gates at deck stair openings.

- Keep outdoor furniture pulled away from deck or porch edges.
- Use age-appropriate playground equipment and stay within arm's reach.
- Take a quick walk-through when arriving at unfamiliar homes.

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## Routines that quietly reduce risk

Several small routines pay off through this stage. Tucking dining chairs in after every use takes less than a minute and eliminates the most common counter-access path. Putting away step stools rather than leaving them out is similar. Closing doors to off-limits rooms removes whole categories of climbing without any new product.

- Push chairs in and put step stools away after every use.
  - Close doors to rooms that have not been fully toddler-proofed.
  - Adjust supervision to match the new climbing reality.
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