

# Holiday home safety checklist

*Long summer evenings. Swimming at the beach or the lake. Barbeques in the backyard. These experiences are all part of staying in a holiday home. Whether it's your house or someone else's take a few minutes to check things are safe before you relax completely. It could be time well spent.*

## Decks

Inspect the flooring, railings and any steps off the deck.

Is anything damaged or broken?

- Yes, organise for them to be repaired.
- No

Are the steps or deck surface covered in moss or rotting leaves?

- Yes. Moss and rotting leaves can make decks and steps very slippery especially when wet - scrub or water blast the deck.
- No

## Bunks

Holiday homes often have bunks. Make sure they're not damaged in any way.

Are they designed to hold the weight of the person sleeping in them?

- No, reorganise the sleeping arrangements. It's safer to sleep on the floor than fall from a bunk.
- Yes

## Lighting

People often fall at night in houses they're not familiar with.

Have any of the bulbs blown in the inside and outside lights? (Pay close attention to hall way lights and lights over steps and stairs)

- Yes, change the bulbs.
- No

## Barbeques

Check the barbeque BEFORE you use it

Does the barbeque have any cracks in hoses, wear, major rusting, loose connections or leaks?

- Yes, organise for it to be repaired or the damaged part replaced.
- No

## Glass doors & large windows

Are glass doors, ranch sliders and large windows hard to see when they're closed?

- Yes, put stickers on the glass so it's obvious when they're closed.
- No

## Smoke alarms

Smoke alarms save lives but alarm batteries run out so it's important to check them regularly.

Are there working smoke alarms in the house?

- Yes
- No, if the alarm isn't working change the batteries. If there are no alarms seriously consider buying some.

## General tips

- Pack extra bedding away during the day and keep walkways free of clutter
- The kitchen is always the hub of any home. Keep cupboard and oven doors closed
- Wipe up spills and pick up wet towels
- Roll up hoses and any other potential hazards in the garden