

Window Restrictors - Information Leaflet

Housing Health & Safety Rating System - Falls from Windows

Background

There is strong evidence of accidents as the result of falling from windows. The most vulnerable group is people aged under 5, and the consequences of a fall produces physical injuries which may be severe or even fatal.

Nature of the problem

The ease of opening windows, the distance they can be opened, the height of the sill and the design all have an effect on the possibility of an accident happening. For windows above ground floor level, the ease of cleaning from inside will affect the chance of an accident.

Child and resident safety

In order to minimise the risk it is recommended that safety restrictors be fitted. The guidance on restrictors is as follows:

- The initial movement of an opening window to be restricted to not more than 100mm
- The restrictor should be releasable only by manipulation
- The restrictor is only capable of being released by deliberate action to permit the window to be opened fully.
- The restrictor should automatically re-engage when closed

When fitted with a restrictor, windows should conform to the requirements of BS 6375 Part 2 Specification for Operation and Strength Characteristics loading of Windows and withstand a force of 600 Newtons should anyone accidentally fall against it in the restricted position....