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## Safety First: Kid-Proof Your Kitchen

**WACO, Texas (July 15, 2009)** – School's out, and that means more quality time at home with your kids. If you're planning on spending time with them in the kitchen, you may need to make a few adjustments to keep them in safe hands.

"The kitchen is a great place for bonding, but it's also a room that has more potential for accidents," said Doug Rogers, president of Mr. Appliance Corp. "Between hot appliances and sharp cooking objects and corners, curious kids can often be in danger of hurting themselves. Fortunately, homeowners can prevent most accidents by making a few simple adjustments and educating their children about kitchen safety."

Follow these simple tips from *Mr. Appliance* to keep your kitchen as safe as possible.

### Refrigerator

- Keep items not safe for kids on higher shelves, if possible. Be available to help your kids pick out food and drinks that are best for them.
- Position refrigerator shelves to make it difficult for children to climb inside and close the door.
- If you're storing a refrigerator that's not in use, remove the door to prevent curious kids from getting stuck inside.

### Stove and Oven

- Keep pot and pan handles turned in away from the edge of the stove so that curious hands can't pull them down.
- Keep flammable items away from the stove at all times.
- Don't let kids play with pots and pans unsupervised. They may be tempted to play with them while they're in use, too.
- Keep kids several feet away from the oven while it's hot. Establish a "keep out" zone marked by a small rug or area of the kitchen to ensure that kids won't play too close.

### Microwave Oven

- Supervise all use of the microwave. Talk to kids about being careful with hot plates and food.

### Dishwasher

- Keep the dishwasher closed when you're not loading or unloading it. Sharp edges on the doors or inside racks can be a danger.
- If kids are helping you unload the dishwasher, make sure they stand far enough away when you first open the door to avoid burns from the steam. Wait for dishes to cool down before kids handle them.

### Counter Tops, Cabinets and Miscellaneous

- Remove tablecloths from tables. Kids can pull on them and cause table-top items to fall.
- Keep loose cords from dangling over the counter.
- Store sharp objects and plastic bags out of reach.
- Use non-slippery mats and stools to reduce the risk of kids falling.
- Cover the trash can with a lid and talk to kids about not playing by it.
- Label harmful products and post a poison control hotline number.
- Secure cabinets with child-proof locks to lock in dangerous supplies.

### About Mr. Appliance®:

*Mr. Appliance* is North America's leading appliance repair franchise system. Established in 1996, its franchises provide full-service residential and light commercial appliance repair. *Mr. Appliance* has more than 150 locations throughout the United States and Canada and is consistently ranked among the top home service franchises by Entrepreneur magazine and other industry experts. *Mr. Appliance* is a subsidiary of The Dwyer Group, Inc. For more information, visit [www.mrappliance.com](http://www.mrappliance.com).

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