

Accommodation Safety

- **Check before you unpack...** Do not go through the hassle of unpacking your suitcase until you know that the room is safe. Hotel rooms see a lot of use and over time things can start to show signs of wear and tear. In some cases this can be a simple matter of requesting a replacement item but sometimes it may require a change of room whilst work is being carried out to repair potentially dangerous problems. Check that the appliances in the room look well maintained, ensure that bathrooms are free of problems such as cracked tiles or broken fixtures.
- **Look around...** Particularly if you have children take the time to look around the hotel and be aware of any risks that could be addressed. It is far easier to point these things out to hotel management prior to any accident occurring. Make sure you ensure your children are supervised appropriately, especially where you have identified a risk that they could be exposed to.
- **Avoid a fall...** Balconies can be dangerous, particularly for children, if it is possible for them to climb up on or lean over the balcony. Make sure that they are unable to do so by repositioning items of furniture etc. that can be used to climb up on. Adults should be equally wary of sitting on or leaning over balconies so as to prevent a fall. Another source of problems related to balconies is the glass door or partition that links them to the room, where bright sunlight can make it very difficult to determine whether a door is open or closed.
- **Safe and secure...** Check that you and your belongings are safe in your hotel. Ensure that doors lock securely and that there is evidence that the hotel takes security seriously. Do not forget that security when outside the hotel is just as important and that taking precautions such as letting people know where you are going and not carrying obvious or excessive valuables when out and about.
- **Follow the instructions...** More and more hotels offer facilities such as fitness / leisure equipment that can if used incorrectly or if not properly maintained cause serious injuries. Make sure that when using such equipment you have read the operating instructions and have inspected them for evidence of damage or lack of maintenance.