

Safe Doors ● ● ● Doors, Miscellaneous

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BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA

The use of glass, ceramic, or plastic door knobs become hazardous when chipped or broken. In this condition, the faulty door knob may cause the user to suffer painful hand lacerations, especially the individual who is unaware of the condition of the door knob. Door knobs made of materials which are subject to breakage, chipping, and cracking should not be selected for residential housing.

Door knobs placed too close to the edge of the door to allow ample clearance between it and the door frame are awkward to grasp, and create a condition that causes scraped and bruised knuckles. Door knobs should be positioned at least 2.75 inches from the edge of the door to provide for easier grasp and to allow ample clearance for persons with large hands.

Clothes hooks attached to doors at or below head level can be the cause of serious injury. Accidental collision with a door so equipped might occur as an individual carelessly walks into the door, or perhaps another person could unknowingly move the door into collision with the victim. To avoid the possibility of this occurrence, necessary clothes hooks should be located at a level which will exceed the head level height of the individual members of the family. Low hooks, primarily for children's use, should be placed above their eye level, but at a height which does not create a hazard for adults.

Provisions should be made for closet doors that open easily from the inside, to avoid the accidental entrapment of children or adults. Besides temporary fright at the realization of being trapped in a closet, suffocation could take place in the restricted area of a small closet. Closet door latching hardware, therefore, should be of the non-locking type.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The following safety measures are recommended as means to further reduce accident hazards associated with doors.

- **Use of glass, ceramic, or plastic door knobs shall be avoided.**
- **Door knobs shall be positioned at least 2.75 inches from the edge of the door.**
- **Clothes hooks shall be placed on doors above eye level height.**
- **Means shall be provided for opening closet doors from the inside. Closet door latching hardware shall be the non-locking type.**

Before building, consult the BOCA code.

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Prepared by Helen L. Wells, Housing Specialist

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