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Eye Injuries at Home Send Thousands of Adults and Children to the Emergency Room Every Year

- Most Eye Injuries Can Be Prevented Through Safety Practices and the Use of Proper Eye Protection -

CHICAGO (Sept. 24, 2015) – In 2014, more than 193,000 adults and children were treated in hospital emergency rooms in the United States for eye injuries sustained within the home, according to the [Consumer Product Safety Commission's National Electronic Injury Surveillance System](#). Many of the items that were involved in injuries are commonly used in and around the home, including cleaning supplies, lawn equipment and power tools.

In a recent study, "[Age and Consumer Product-Related Eye Injuries in the United States](#)," published in the *Rhode Island Medical Journal* in 2014, the data showed that consumer products causing the highest proportion of eye injury visits to the emergency room varied among the different age groups including:

- chemicals for those ages 0-4 years, and in those ages 65 and over,
- household items in 5-9 year-olds,
- sports products in 10-24 year-olds,
- cutting and construction tools in 25-64 year-olds

Fortunately, most eye injuries can be prevented by wearing the proper eye protection. Prevent Blindness has declared October as Home Eye Safety Awareness Month and offers free information at PreventBlindness.org/eye-safety-home.

Prevent Blindness urges everyone to wear protective eyewear approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) when performing household activities. The eyewear should have the "Z-87" logo stamped on the frames.

Prevent Blindness also recommends the following to help prevent eye injuries at home:

- Provide lights and handrails to improve safety from tripping hazards on stairs.
- Inspect and remove debris from lawns before mowing.
- Keep paints, pesticides, fertilizers, and similar products properly stored in a secure area.
- Keep your tools in good condition; damaged tools should be repaired or replaced.
- Wear safety glasses or dust goggles to protect against flying particles, and chemical goggles to guard against exposure to fertilizers and pesticides.
- Wear chemical safety goggles when using hazardous solvents and detergents.

- Read and follow all manufacturer instructions and warning labels.
- Do not mix cleaning agents.
- Know that regular eyeglasses don't always provide enough protection.

“When we’re at home, it’s tempting to think we aren’t susceptible to dangers, but most eye accidents happen at home when we’re doing things like working in the yard, cleaning the house or repairing a broken item,” said Hugh R. Parry, president and CEO of Prevent Blindness. “We urge everyone to monitor their surroundings and take the necessary precautions to help ensure the gift of sight lasts a lifetime.”

For more information on home eye safety and eye protection recommendations, call Prevent Blindness at (800) 331-2020 or visit preventblindness.org.

About Prevent Blindness

Founded in 1908, Prevent Blindness is the nation's leading volunteer eye health and safety organization dedicated to fighting blindness and saving sight. Focused on promoting a continuum of vision care, Prevent Blindness touches the lives of millions of people each year through public and professional education, advocacy, certified vision screening and training, community and patient service programs and research. These services are made possible through the generous support of the American public. Together with a network of affiliates, Prevent Blindness is committed to eliminating preventable blindness in America. For more information, or to make a contribution to the sight-saving fund, call (800) 331-2020. Or, visit us on the Web at preventblindness.org or facebook.com/preventblindness.

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