

GEORGIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

Tot Finder Stickers

Should I use a "Tot Finder" sticker in the window of my child's room?

This is a great question and one which often brings about controversy when answered.

We at the Georgia Fire Department prefer to teach a proactive, quick response to fires. The use of these decals could provide a false sense of security for your family. Through various public education programs, we begin educating children at a very young age about the basics of a home escape plan. Children are taught the importance of responding quickly to a smoke alarm, knowing two ways out of each room, crawling low in smoke and having a meeting place outside their home. Children may feel that by having this decal on their window, it will be okay to stay and wait for the fire department and this isn't the message we are trying to teach them. They need to learn the importance of getting out of the house as quickly as possible and **staying out!**

There are other reasons why the use of these stickers is not recommended. One reason being that when children grow up and move away from home, or change bedrooms in the house, the decal remains in the window. Perhaps the room has been converted to an office or den and is no longer a bedroom at all. This places firefighters at undue risk by directing them to search for a child when in fact there are no children in that room or living at home.

Another reason why the window decals are not recommended by Georgia Fire Department is because it provides a vulnerable spot for your home. The decals could act as a signal to unwanted individuals directing them to the location of your children.

Due to child protection concerns, **the Tot Finder® sticker has been redesigned.** The "New" Tot Finder® Fire Safety Program is a 3-part sticker designed to be used **inside** the home on the bottom of the child's bedroom door. The front of the sticker is produced on a highly reflective material, while the back is made of a special removable adhesive, so they can be removed easily when the child no longer occupies that room.

Finally, it is important to understand that when a fire department responds for a fire, they are trained to perform a systematic search of the entire house. If firefighters were to first look for windows containing a Tot Finder decal, and search only those rooms, precious time is wasted.

If you have window decals in your home, Georgia Fire Department recommends you remove them. Replace them with the NEW TOT- FINDER sticker on the bedroom door.

(OVER)

Then get your family together and take the time to develop a fire escape plan indicating two ways out of each room and a meeting place outside.

Be sure you have at least one smoke detector (new or replaced must be of the Photoelectric type) in the immediate vicinity of sleeping rooms and on all floor levels including the basement of your home

Carbon Monoxide detector should be installed outside each sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms, on floor levels where sleeping rooms are provided.

An additional detector shall be installed in each sleeping room that contains a fuel-burning appliance.

Remember to test them every month.

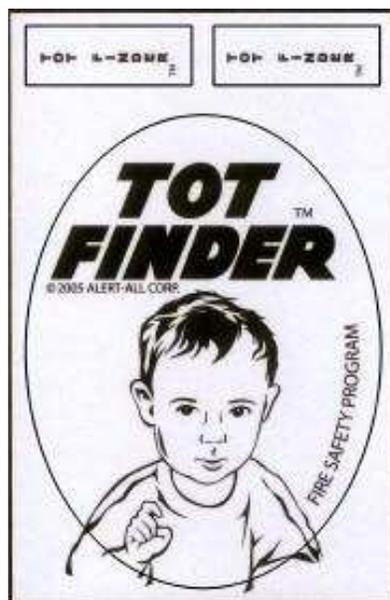
Once you have a plan developed, you need to practice it to be sure everyone knows what to do. You can make it more interesting by blocking an exit with a sign stating that a particular exit is blocked by smoke or fire so family members will have to use their second way out.

Use this information to make your home a safer place. Then tell a friend or a neighbor so they will know what to do in the event of a fire.

The "New" Tot Finder stickers are available from:

Heather Grimm – Fire Prevention Officer – GEORGIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

802 – 524-6374



TOT FINDER® FIRE SAFETY PROGRAM

These stickers are highly visible from a light source and are intended to aid firefighters to clear marked areas first in the event of a fire.



Step 1—Place oval sticker on **bottom** of child's bedroom door, under door handle, as shown.

Step 2—Place rectangular stickers on bottom of door jambs.

The TOT FINDER® program is not a substitute for an effective home fire safety program that includes:

- Working Smoke Alarms on each level of the home
- A carefully developed home fire escape plan
- Regular family fire drills
- Fire suppression systems
- Other forms of fire safety and prevention

Neither Alert-All nor any manufacturer or distributor of the TOT FINDER program shall assume any liability from the use of the TOT FINDER stickers. Use of the stickers is only one part of an effective home fire safety program. Contact your local fire department or authorities for details on how to develop and maintain an effective home fire safety program. Failure to follow an effective home fire safety program may result in injury or loss of life.

Please replace the stickers after 1 year.

Remove promptly when bedroom is no longer occupied by a small child.

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