

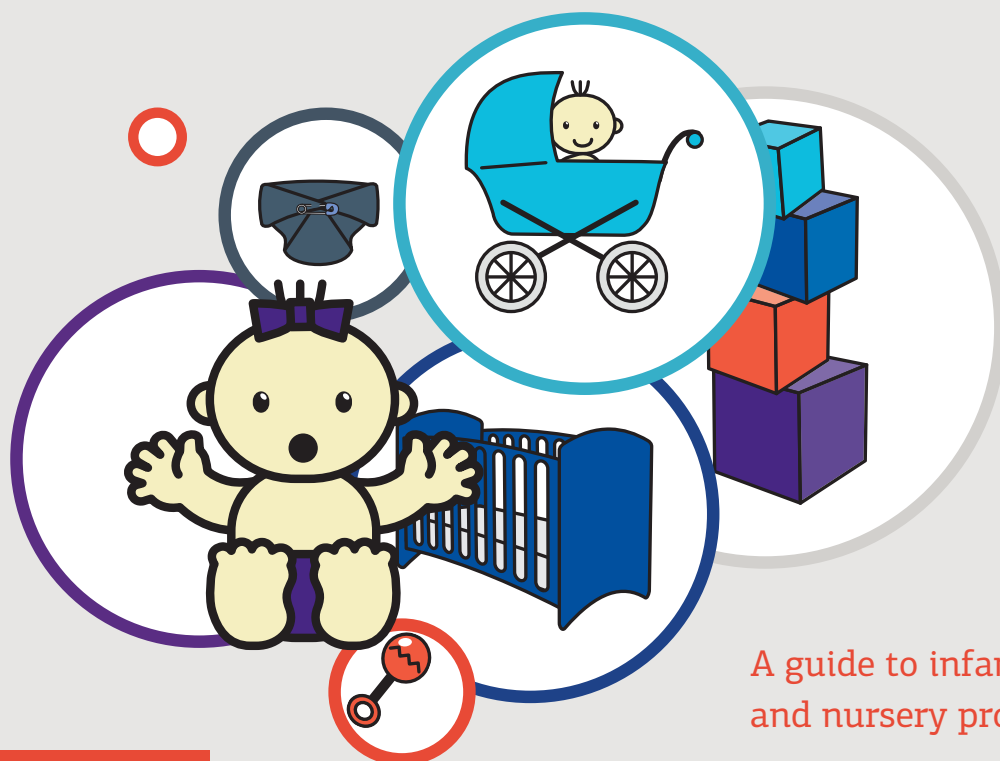


Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission

A detailed guide for consumers

FIND OUT MORE:

Keeping baby safe



A guide to infant
and nursery products



Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission

Find out more: Keeping baby safe

A guide to infant and nursery products

Keeping baby safe is a guide to the safe purchase and use of infant and nursery products. This Guide has been designed specifically for parents but also applies to anyone caring for children.

While the information in this Guide is current at the time of printing, it is important that you regularly check for new product safety alerts, recalls and laws.

TO OBTAIN UPDATES AND ALERTS

www.productsafety.gov.au

You can keep up to date by subscribing to email alerts and other information you are interested in.

Additional copies

This Guide is available from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC). To obtain more copies, order the Guide online: www.productsafety.gov.au or call ACCC Infocentre on 1300 302 502.

Information in this Guide is also available as an iPhone and iPad app. Search for ACCC Keeping baby safe on iTunes.

For more information, visit www.productsafety.gov.au/keepingbabysafe

Disclaimer

Because this publication avoids the use of legal language, information about the law may have been summarised or expressed in general statements. This information should not be relied upon as a substitute for professional legal advice or reference to actual legislation.

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www.productsafety.gov.au

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Using the guide

Not all nursery products are safe

Many people think all new infant and nursery products sold in Australia are safe.

While most designers and manufacturers work to ensure products on the market are safe, from time to time they don't meet safety standards.

New products regularly appear on the market. Sometimes safety issues relating to their design or use emerge after they become available for sale.

Many people also think hand-me-down and second-hand products are safe because they have been used by others without any problems. But these products can be unsafe and cause injury or even death. Children have died in accidents involving hand-me-down and second-hand products that were fragile, broken or misused.

Checking Safety

The information in this Guide will help you:

- > check the safety features in the infant and nursery products you buy or are given
- > use products safely
- > find and remove hazards around your home that can make these products unsafe.

The Guide lists a wide range of products used for and by children. Under each we list hazards associated with the product, what to look for (labels and standards) and safety tips you can apply. Where relevant, examples of labels are provided, as are diagrams and other information to help you choose safe products that you:

- > buy from shops, second-hand outlets or garage sales
- > borrow from family and friends
- > receive as a gift from family and friends
- > give as a gift to family members and friends.

Spreading the word

Show or give your family members and friends a copy of the Guide. It will help them select safe infant and nursery products. You might also like to order a copy for those who care for your child, including relatives or friends.

Keeping up to date

As new products come onto the market, new safety issues can emerge. It's important to keep up to date with infant and nursery product safety alerts, recalls and laws.

You can get regular updates by visiting:

- ✓ www.productsafety.gov.au
- ✓ www.recalls.gov.au
- ✓ @ACCCProdSafety Twitter account
- ✓ ACCC Product Safety Facebook page
- ✓ ACCC Product Safety on YouTube.

Safe products

Every year many children in Australia need hospital treatment for injuries relating to infant and nursery products.

The ACCC and state and territory consumer protection agencies work to:

- > monitor product safety
- > educate consumers about using products safely
- > develop mandatory standards specifying particular safety features and/or warnings, labels or instructions that must come with a product
- > ban unsafe products.

Some infant and nursery products not covered by mandatory standards are made to meet voluntary safety standards. However when we have evidence that a product has caused or could cause serious injury, illness or death, we may develop a mandatory standard with specific safety features designed to minimise risks. Products with mandatory standards can only be legally sold if they meet the mandatory requirements.

Throughout the Guide, you will notice references to AS/NZS (Australian and New Zealand Standards) and ISO (international standards) on some of the product pages. Although these standards are voluntary, they become compulsory when they are referenced in a mandatory standard which is made law by the Commonwealth Government.

When a product poses unacceptable safety hazards and it's not possible to make it safe, we ban it from the marketplace.

Relevant mandatory standards

Products with mandatory standards should be okay to use with your baby as long as the product meets the requirements of standard(s) and as long as you always follow any warnings and instructions for use that come with the product. These are designed to help you protect your children. You can subscribe to be notified of the latest information on product bans and mandatory standards by subscribing to receive email alerts from www.productsafety.gov.au.

As at May 2013, there are mandatory standards covering the following products:

- > aquatic toys
- > babies' dummies
- > baby bath aids
- > baby walkers
- > child restraints for motor vehicles
- > children's household cots
- > children's nightwear
- > children's nightwear—paper patterns
- > children's portable folding cots
- > curtains and blinds
- > flotation aids
- > portable pools
- > prams and strollers
- > toys containing magnets
- > toys and finger paints for children—lead and certain elements
- > toys for babies and toddlers.

For the latest information about products with mandatory standards, visit www.productsafety.gov.au/mandatorystandards.

Safe products *continued*

Relevant bans

As at May 2013, permanent bans exist for the following products because evidence shows they have caused, or could cause, serious injuries, illness or death:

- > baby dummies and chains with unsafe decorations
- > children's plastic products containing more than 1 per cent *Diethylhexyl phthalate* (DEHP)
- > inflatable toys, novelties and furniture containing polystyrene beads
- > jelly cups containing konjac
- > small, high powered magnets
- > toy-like novelty cigarette lighters.

For the latest information about banned products, visit www.productsafety.gov.au/bans.

Recalled products

When businesses find their products are defective or unsafe, they often recall them.

You can find out about recalls:

- > at www.recalls.gov.au where you can sign up for email updates and RSS feeds (also available in a mobile friendly version)
- > in newspaper advertisements
- > on Facebook: ACCC Product Safety
- > on your phone by downloading ACCC Recalls Australia iPhone and Android app
- > on Twitter: @ACCCProdSafety

It's wise to check regularly for products recalled from businesses and follow their advice if you own any recalled products. This may include returning the product to the business or disposing of it safely.



Second-hand products

Baby products are generally used for a short time and can remain in quite good condition, so many people lend, give away or sell products they no longer need. Many businesses also sell second-hand baby products.

Sales by private people

Product bans and mandatory standards don't apply when you buy products from private people who are not in business. This includes people who sell items privately through garage sales, newspaper advertisements and the internet.

Sales by businesses

While second-hand products sold by businesses are required to meet current mandatory standards, it's still important to check everything you buy.

Tips for checking second-hand products

Pre-loved baby products that are in good condition and meet mandatory standards can help you save money. By using this Guide you'll see that many second-hand and hand-me-down infant and nursery goods still have current safety labels and features. But before you buy or accept one of these goods, always check that it:

- ✓ comes with full instructions for assembly and use
- ✓ is sturdy and stable
- ✓ has no missing parts
- ✓ works correctly
- ✓ has no tears, sharp edges or sharp points
- ✓ has had no changes made to it that could make it unsafe, such as the wrong size mattress in a cot, or rough, non-professional repairs
- ✓ has no history of being in an accident or being damaged
- ✓ can be fixed, if necessary, by the original business that sold it.

Be careful when buying second-hand goods based only a photograph in a newspaper or on the internet. Usually you can't check the safety of an older product unless you can physically see it, handle it and test it. If the product is damaged or has been repaired, look elsewhere rather than risk your baby's safety.

Warning

Avoid buying, borrowing or accepting second-hand products that don't have mandatory labels and safety features. Using these products increases the risk that your child could be seriously injured or even die.

Report unsafe products

If you have questions on the products in this Guide, experience an accident or near miss because of a product, or suspect a business is selling non-compliant or banned products, please contact one of the following government consumer protection agencies. Any information you provide may help these agencies identify problems and protect other consumers, including children of all ages.

Consumer protection agencies

You can use these details—or those found on the directory at www.productsafety.gov.au—to ask questions or report unsafe products.

National

Australian Competition and
Consumer Commission
GPO Box 3131
Canberra ACT 2601
T. 1300 302 502
www.productsafety.gov.au

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Australian Capital Territory

Office of Regulatory Services
GPO Box 158
Canberra ACT 2601
T. (02) 6207 0400
www.ors.act.gov.au

New South Wales

NSW Fair Trading
PO Box 972
Parramatta NSW 2124
T. 13 3220
www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au

Northern Territory

Contact the ACCC
(see National for details)

Queensland

Office of Fair Trading
GPO Box 3111
Brisbane QLD 4001
T. 13 QGOV (13 7468)
www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au

South Australia

Office of Consumer
& Business Affairs
GPO Box 1719
Adelaide SA 5001
T. (08) 8152 0732
www.ocba.sa.gov.au

Tasmania

Office of Consumer Affairs
& Fair Trading
GPO Box 1244
Hobart TAS 7001
T. 1300 654 499
www.consumer.tas.gov.au

Victoria

Consumer Affairs Victoria
GPO Box 123
Melbourne VIC 3001
T. 1300 558 181
www.consumer.vic.gov.au

Western Australia

Department of Commerce
Locked Bag 14
Cloisters Square WA 6850
T. 1300 304 054
www.commerce.wa.gov.au

Further information

Kidsafe—The Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia

www.kidsafe.com.au

SIDS and Kids

Contact SIDS and KIDS for safe sleeping information for your baby.

www.sidsandkids.org

National office (03) 9818 4595

24-hour grief support 1300 308 307

Poisons Information Service

13 1126

You can also find contact details for these local agencies in your telephone directory:

- > local government maternal and child health centres
- > community health centres
- > children's hospitals
- > metropolitan and country fire services
- > road traffic authorities
- > police
- > ambulance services.



Items not meant for babies

Antique cots

Babies are at risk in antique cots. These cots don't meet modern safety standards—they are really only for show. Don't be tempted to use an antique cot because it looks great or has been in your family for a long time: your baby's safety is much more important.

Second-hand dealers and other businesses must not sell antique cots without the warning certificate and labels listed in this Guide.

Balloons

Keep balloons, including burst balloons, away from babies—they can place the rubber over their mouths or inhale a small piece that could cause them to suffocate or choke.

Banned products/products that don't meet mandatory standards

Check the list on page 4, and product information throughout this Guide, to make sure your children are never exposed to unsafe products.

Batteries for toys

Make sure batteries for mobiles, musical toys, toys with moving parts and night lights are enclosed and secure. Only adults should be able to open the battery case. If swallowed, small batteries can cause your children to choke, suffocate or become seriously ill.

Take extreme care when using products with coin-sized lithium button batteries. Be aware that a number of household products, including bathroom scales and remote controls for televisions and garage doors can contain button batteries. If a child swallows a button battery, the battery can get stuck in the child's throat and burn through the oesophagus in as little as two hours. Repair can require feeding and breathing tubes and multiple surgeries.

For more information on button batteries, visit www.thebatterycontrolled.com.au.

Bean bags

Babies can become seriously ill or die after inhaling or swallowing the small beads that fill bean bags. Keep these fillings, and any other products used for beanbags, away from your children's reach. Never fill or refill beanbags

around young children. Never put your baby to sleep on bean bags—the small beans can form around the face and smother the baby.

Bunk beds

The suitable minimum age to use a bunk bed can vary greatly depending on your child's maturity and development. It's generally not recommended that you use the upper bunk bed or an elevated bed for children under nine years of age and **definitely not** for children under six years old. Children have been seriously injured when falling from bunk beds; falls represent over 75 per cent of injury incidents that occur with bunks or elevated beds. Children under six account for more than 50 per cent of the total injuries with these products.

Serious injuries can also occur if the bunk bed is poorly made or inappropriately used. Your children could:

- > get concussions and/or fractures after falling from an upper bed or ladder—falls are the most common cause of injury and can be fatal
- > strangle or accidentally hang themselves if their head or neck gets caught between gaps in and around the bunk bed, or if their clothing gets snagged on parts of the bed
- > injure their head, arms and/or legs if these become trapped in gaps in the bunk bed structure.

To prevent these injuries, never allow your children—no matter how old they are—to play on bunk beds. Make sure bunk beds have guard rails on both sides and ends, even if one side is against a wall. Remove access ladders when not in use so small children cannot climb on them. Place the bunk bed at least two metres away from any ceiling fan and away from other hazards like windows, or blind or curtain cords.

Educate and inform your children about the dangers of playing on bunks or elevated beds.

Cot and bed restraints

Cot and bed restraints used to secure your children with ties or straps can strangle them. Don't use these types of restraints unless advised to do so by a medical practitioner, and be sure to follow all instructions for safe use.

Disposable cigarette lighters

Always keep cigarette lighters out of your children's reach and follow their warning instructions. Never allow children of any age to play with, or operate, cigarette lighters.

Domestic treadmills

Domestic treadmills are meant for adults, not for children.

Children have been taken to hospital to be treated for:

- > injuries that result from becoming trapped or wedged under a treadmill
- > cuts, bruises, cut or broken fingers caused when on, or near, a treadmill
- > serious friction burns, which can require painful skin grafts.

Store your treadmill away from young children, and don't use it if your children are in the room.

Safety tips

- ✓ Read the treadmill's operating and safety instructions carefully before use.
- ✓ Always keep young children away from your treadmill, especially when it's plugged in.
- ✓ Keep the treadmill's safety and operating key hidden from your children.
- ✓ When not in use, switch off the power to your treadmill at the wall and unplug it.
- ✓ Keep your treadmill in a locked room, if possible.
- ✗ Never allow your children to stand on a moving treadmill deck.

Flashing imitation dummies

Flashing imitation dummies are novelties intended for teenagers and adults. Never give them to your children—they can cause choking and strangulation.

Hot water bottles

Never use hot water bottles with babies. Children have sensitive skin and can easily suffer serious burns and scalds from contact with a hot water bottle, and from leaking hot water bottles.

Plastic children's products with DEHP

These products are banned. For full details, see page 29.

Toys and finger paints containing lead and other elements

Toys and finger paints containing unacceptable levels of lead and other elements are banned. For full details, see page 50.

Toys for children over three years of age

Babies often like to play games with their older brothers and sisters, but toys designed for older children can be dangerous for babies. They may have small parts or may break easily into small parts.

As a natural part of their development, babies often place items in their mouths and can easily choke or suffocate if a small part gets stuck in their throat. Always watch babies closely when they're playing with older children. Never allow older children to play with projectile toys and balloon-blowing kits with babies.

Toys with small magnets

Many toys with small magnets are not safe for babies or toddlers. For full details, see page 53.

Also, there is a ban on small, high powered magnets that are:

- > small enough to fit into a cylinder pencil sharpener (approximate diameter 32 mm)
- > are marketed or supplied for use as any of the following:
 - toy, game or puzzle (including but not limited to an adult desk toy, an educational toy or game, a toy, game or puzzle for mental stimulation or stress relief)
 - a construction or modelling kit
 - jewellery to be worn in or around the mouth or nose.

Trampolines

Keep toddlers away from the sides of, ends of and underneath trampolines being used by older children. Toddlers can be seriously injured from falls, pinching and crushing if they use trampolines or are near a trampoline others are using.

Very old furniture and toys

While it may be lovely to receive old cradles, high chairs, toys and other items that look charming and have fond memories, these products likely do not meet modern safety standards. Use this Guide to check older items before you use them or give them to your children. If in doubt, don't use them.

Hazards around the home

Many new parents are surprised that the most common place for babies to be injured is in and around the home.

Babies can suffer serious injuries, illness and even death because they don't know how to identify or understand dangerous situations, and they don't have the physical skills needed to quickly get out of danger. As a parent, it's recommended that you get down on your hands and knees and conduct—from your baby's perspective—a thorough inspection of your home for hazards, before your child is old enough to experience these hazards themselves.

Understand and remove hazards

It's important to understand the hazards listed in this section and throughout this Guide.

Follow these easy steps to remove hazards from inside and outside your home:

- > only choose products that suit your child's age, weight and size
- > follow instructions for assembly and use
- > stay within sight and reach of babies and toddlers—don't leave them in the care of other children
- > regularly check products to ensure latches, locks, brakes and frames work—make sure there are no torn fabrics or accessible small parts that may cause choking, or gaps that may trap your baby or allow your baby to fall through
- > get damaged products repaired immediately by the manufacturer
- > dispose of damaged children's products that can't be repaired
- > keep a well-stocked first aid kit in your home and take a first aid course

Some common hazards

Falls

Children can suffer injuries after falling from furniture and play equipment, through windows or down stairs.

Choking

Babies and toddlers often place things in their mouths. Small objects, such as broken pieces of toys, pieces of fabric, coins, button batteries, nuts and lollies, can easily lodge in their throat and block their airway.

Strangulation

Children can become tangled in ribbons, ties, or blind and curtain cords. These can quickly wrap around their throat and strangle them.

Suffocation

When babies have their faces trapped against bedding, fabric, pillows, mattresses or soft toys, they may not be able to roll away and can quickly suffocate.

Crushing

Babies and toddlers climbing onto or holding unstable furniture can quickly pull it down on themselves. They can also crush their fingers in moving parts on items such as doors, drawers, prams, strollers, high chairs, portable cots and playpens.

Trapping

Gaps in equipment that are 30 mm to 50 mm wide can trap your baby's legs or arms. Gaps between 95 mm and 230 mm can trap your baby's head by allowing their body, but not their head, to fit through the space. This can strangle them.

Cuts

Sharp edges on toys, equipment and benches can cause cuts. Any folding frames and moving parts need a safe space between moving parts (at least 5 mm to 12 mm), so they don't act like scissors on your children's fingertips.

Drowning

Babies and toddlers can quickly drown in even very small amounts of water. Always empty buckets, nappy buckets, basins and bowls of water after use, or place them out of reach. Install four sided fencing, and self-closing, self-latching gates around pools, as required by law. Never leave your baby or toddler alone in a bath, bath aid, paddle pool or basin of water—even for the shortest time. Remember, aquatic toys, flotation aids and bath aids are not safety devices. There is no substitute for good, close (at arm's length), competent adult supervision around water. You may also want to consider taking a course on water safety so you are better prepared in the event of an emergency.

Poisoning

- ✓ Place poisons in a secure place, such as an out-of-reach cupboard that is at least 1.5 metres above floor level.
- ✓ Always choose medical and cleaning products with child-resistant packaging or closures. Place child-resistant locks on cupboards, garden sheds and garage doors.
- ✓ Use door barriers and door knob covers to prevent access to rooms where poisons are kept.

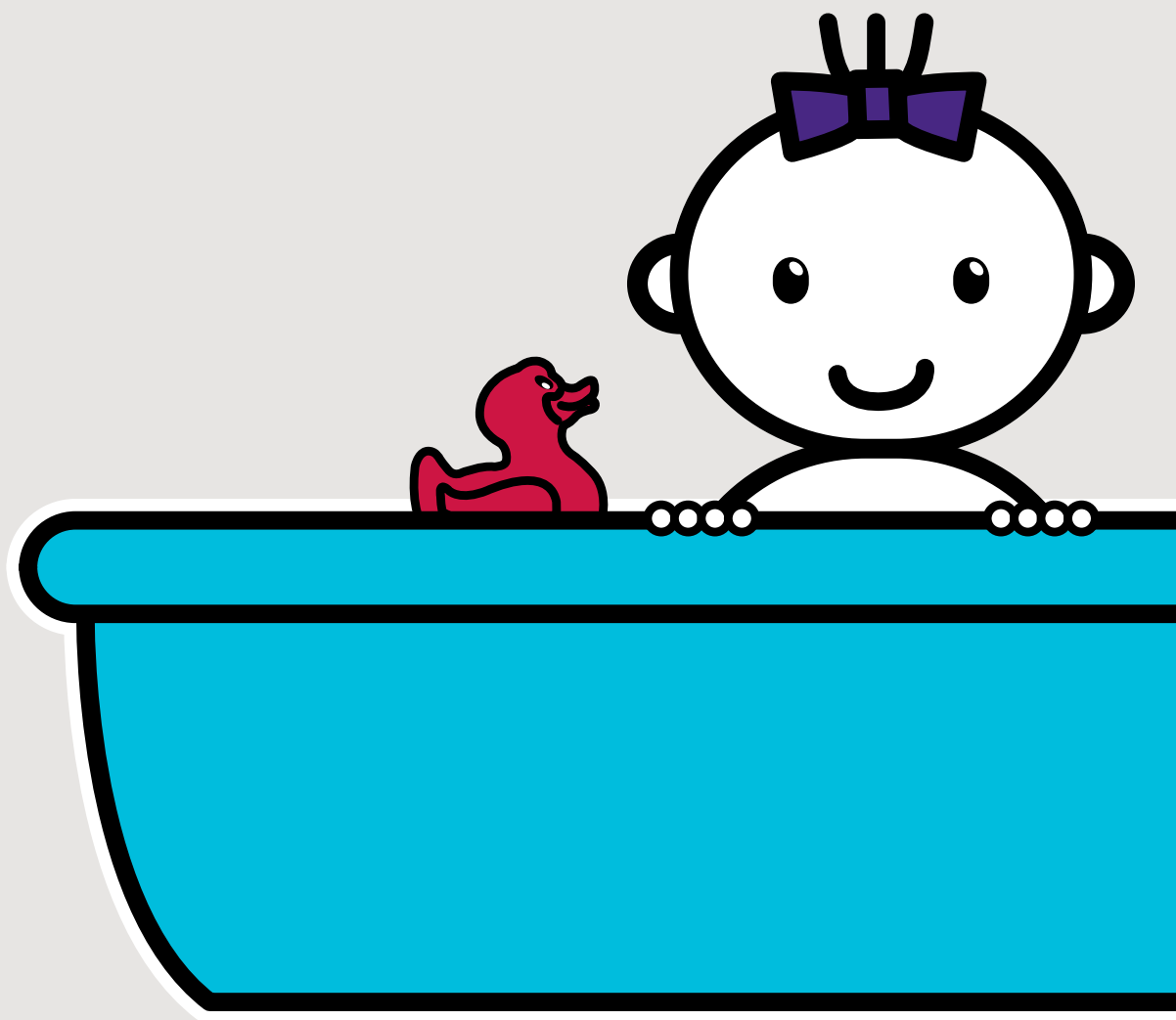
Burns, scalds and electrocution

- ✓ Keep your children away from hot food and drinks, electrical appliances, barbecues and treadmills—these products have caused serious burns and/or electrocution.
- ✓ Put matches and lighters out of reach and install stove barriers, hotplate guards, power point covers, hot tap safety covers and hot water temperature control valves.
- ✗ Never let your children play in the kitchen while you're preparing meals. Burns and scalds have occurred after children have pulled on electrical appliance cords for things like cookers, kettles or fry pans.
- ✓ You should also install and maintain smoke alarms, place a fire blanket and extinguisher in the kitchen, develop a home fire escape plan and practise it regularly.





Product information





Aquatic toys



Children can drown if their flotation or aquatic toy fails or if they don't use it properly.

Hazards

- ✗ death by drowning
- ✗ permanent brain injury caused by immersion

Children can drown if their flotation or aquatic toy fails or if they don't use it properly. Children revived from near-drowning may suffer permanent brain injury from lack of oxygen to the brain.

What to look for

Mandatory standard

The mandatory standard for flotation and aquatic toys is based on AS/NZS ISO 8124.1:2002.

Compulsory label

Flotation and aquatic toys must be permanently marked with this warning notice:

**WARNING
AQUATIC TOY
USE ONLY
UNDER SUPERVISION**

Read the label and always closely supervise children when they're using flotation and aquatic toys.

Safety tips

- ✓ To avoid drowning, make sure a competent person is close by and constantly supervising your children when they're using flotation and aquatic toys. These are not safety devices.
- ✓ Follow the manufacturer's age and/or weight recommendations when choosing flotation and aquatic toys for your children. For instance, flotation toys for younger children may not be able to support an older child's body weight.
- ✓ Read warning labels and packaging carefully and follow instructions for proper assembly and use. Your children can drown if they don't use these types of toys properly or if the toys deflate during swimming.
- ✓ If you're near any child who is injured while playing with a toy in the water, remember that they are at greater risk of drowning. If this happens:
 - ✓ take the child out of the water
 - ✓ check that the child is not concussed or seriously injured
 - ✓ keep the child out of the water if there are signs of illness or injury.

Baby bath aids



Never leave your baby alone in a bath—ignore all interruptions or take your baby with you if you must leave the room.

Hazards

- ✗ drowning
- ✗ permanent brain injury caused by immersion

What to look for

Mandatory standard

The mandatory standard requires bath aids and their packaging to carry strong graphic warnings.

Compulsory label

Baby bath aids must be permanently marked with this warning notice:

WARNING

Children have **DROWNED** while using bath aids. This is **NOT** a safety device.

ALWAYS keep baby within arm's reach. **NEVER** leave baby in care of children.

Safety tips

- ✗ Never leave your baby alone in a bath aid—ignore all interruptions or take your baby with you if you must leave the room.
- ✓ Fully support your baby with your hand at all times when they are in a bath aid.
- ✓ Get your baby's clothes ready before you start bathing them.
- ✓ Preferably bath your baby without a bath aid so you're not tempted to leave them, even for a few seconds.

Never use bath aids with suction cups if your bath has:

- ✗ an uneven surface
- ✗ a slip-resistant base
- ✗ chipped or worn enamel.

Baby carriers



Only use a framed carrier for babies who are four or five months old, as younger babies can suffer neck injuries.

Hazards

- ✗ falling
- ✗ finger traps and pinching

What to look for

Only use framed carriers for babies after consulting with a health professional, as younger babies can suffer neck injuries.

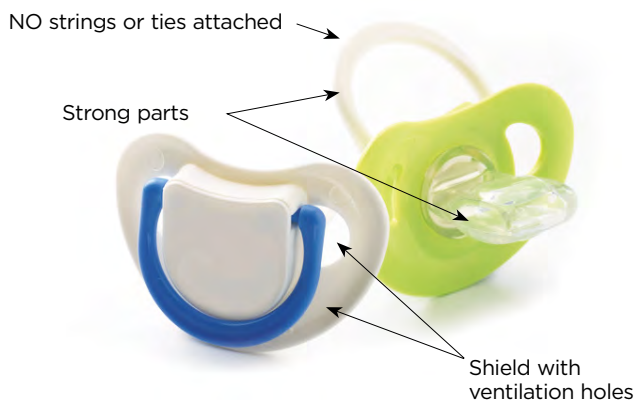
A baby carrier should have:

- > clear instructions
- > sturdy materials and heavy duty fasteners
- > padding on any metal frames that will be near your baby's face
- > safe folding frame joints
- > no sharp points or edges
- > restraining straps, including ones that will cover your baby's shoulders
- > straps you can adjust with one hand
- > a broad hip or waist strap that takes weight off your shoulders and stops sideways movement of the baby carrier
- > enough depth to support your baby's back
- > sufficient support for your baby that also allows some head, leg and arm movement and allows your baby's weight to be distributed evenly
- > leg openings small enough to stop your baby from slipping out
- > leg openings big enough to stop chafing.

Safety tips

- ✓ Always use restraining straps.
- ✓ Always bend from the knees, not the waist, when lifting baby carriers so your baby doesn't fall out.
- ✓ If bending, make sure your baby can't reach other hazards.
- ✓ Before each use, check for ripped seams, missing or loose fasteners and frayed seats or straps.
- ✓ Don't use the carrier if you see these or any other signs of damage.

Baby dummies



To avoid strangulation, never tie a dummy on a string or ribbon around your baby's neck or on a cot, pram or other equipment.

Hazards

- ✗ suffocation
- ✗ choking
- ✗ strangulation
- ✗ cuts and abrasions suffered by babies falling over with a dummy in their mouth

What to look for

Mandatory standard

The mandatory standard for baby dummies is based on AS 2432-1991.

Safety features

Dummies must:

- > have a shield with ventilation holes to prevent suffocation if the entire dummy enters your baby's mouth
- > be strong and not break into smaller parts, such as a detaching teat, that can cause your baby to choke
- > not have strings or ties, that could wrap tightly around your baby's neck and cause your baby to strangle
- > not have unsafe decorations (see page 19 for more details).

Safety tips

- ✓ Check dummies before each use. Pull firmly on the teat and tug the handle and ring to ensure they don't give way under pressure.
- ✓ Check the teat for wear and tear. If it looks worn or damaged, throw the dummy away.
- ✓ Store dummies away from direct sunlight, which can cause the rubber or silicone to perish.
- ✓ Sterilise dummies or wash them in hot soapy water; then rinse and air dry.
- ✓ Regularly buy new dummies as constant use and washing causes them to weaken.
- ✓ Watch children who can remove dummies themselves as they're more likely to try to place an entire dummy into their mouth, not just the teat.
- ✗ Never give children imitation flashing dummies as these can cause choking.
- ✗ Avoid using dummies when babies and toddlers are teething or have developed teeth as chewing may cause the teat to tear and separate from the shield, creating a choking hazard.

Baby dummies and chains with unsafe decorations



Unsafe decorations may detach and become a choking hazard for your child.

Hazards

- ✗ choking
- ✗ ingestion
- ✗ inhalation

Baby dummy chains are pins, ribbons, strings, cords, chains, twines, leathers, yarns or any other similar article which are designed to be attached to baby dummies. Unsafe decorations include crystals, beads or other similar ornaments (also known as 'bling') that may detach and become a choking hazard for the child.

There is a ban on baby dummies and chains with unsafe decorations. Children under the age of three often place objects in their mouths. They do not have a sufficiently well developed cough reflex to clear throat obstructions and are therefore more prone to choking on small objects. Objects inhaled into the lungs can be very difficult for medical personnel to locate and remove, while ingested objects can cause serious internal damage to children.

Baby exercise jumpers



Only use exercise jumpers for short periods e.g. 15 minutes, as overuse can lead to delays in learning to walk.

Hazards

- ✗ falls
- ✗ finger traps

What to look for

- > A strong independent frame or a secure device for attaching the jumper to a door frame.
- > An adjustable method of retaining your baby in the seat.
- > Covers on springs and chains that stop fingers from being trapped or pinched.

Safety tips

- ✓ Always supervise your baby to prevent falls and bumping into walls or other objects.
- ✓ Only use jumpers for short periods (for example, 15 minutes), as overuse may lead to delays in learning to walk.
- ✓ Make sure your baby is securely fitted and strapped into the harness.
- ✓ Check laces to make sure they're not worn and won't snap under your baby's weight.
- ✓ Cover exposed springs and chains to stop your baby's fingers from being trapped or pinched.

Child safety experts recommend a stationary play centre as a safer alternative to exercise jumpers.



Baby slings



Hazards

- ✗ rapid suffocation if your baby's face is pressed against fabric or the wearer's body
- ✗ slow suffocation if your baby is lying in a 'c' shape position with chin on chest
- ✗ falls

Take extreme care if you're using a sling with a baby under four months of age, especially if your baby has a cold, breathing problems, is of low birth weight or was premature. This warning follows the deaths of young babies in slings.

Young babies don't have the muscle control to hold their heads up or turn their necks to get fresh air if their faces are stuck against fabric or the wearer's body.

It's crucial to always have one arm around your baby and regularly check that you can see the baby's face, and that the baby is lying with a straight, flat back and is breathing freely.

Remember

Babies don't need to go into a foetal position to feel comforted—this dangerous myth can cause babies to slowly suffocate.

Ensure you can see your baby's face at all times and that the face is never covered by the sling or your body.

Types of slings

Slings are made from fabric and/or mesh and are designed for carrying babies by wrapping them vertically or horizontally around the body.

Wrap slings

Wrap slings are usually made from one piece of fabric. You place your baby in the fabric, then wrap the sling around your body and secure it in place by tying the fabric ends or by using attached buckles, rings or clips. Options include wrapping horizontally across the front of your body with the baby in a pea-pod position, or vertically on the front or back, with the baby facing in or out.

Pouch slings

Pouch slings consist of a sash of fabric you wear on one shoulder. You double the sash over on itself forming a pouch. You place your baby into the pouch and wear the sling across the front of your body. Pouches usually have no clips, buckles, rings or tying.

- > Take your baby with you when you buy a wrap or pouch sling to make sure it's a safe fit for both you and your baby—if the sling is too large or worn incorrectly, your baby may be in danger.
- > Ask for a demonstration of how to use these types of slings, according to the instructions that come with them.

Baby slings *continued*

What to look for

- > a sling that is the right size for you and your baby's age and weight
- > detailed instructions for use
- > slings that stop your baby from moving into a dangerous position where your baby can suffocate
- > a sling that is appropriate for your baby's stage of development—so your baby doesn't suffocate or fall.

Never use products such as bag or pouch slings described as 'womb-like' or 'cocoon' which may completely cover the baby or place the baby in a foetal position. These slings place your baby in a dangerous position with a curved back. A foetus doesn't need a straight neck to breathe, but your baby does.

Safety tips

- ✓ Always follow instructions for use.
- ✗ Never use a sling that is damaged, torn or has missing parts.
- ✗ Don't use slings when you're cooking, are near heaters or fires, in cars or while swimming, jogging, riding bicycles or bending over.

TICKS checklist

Remember and follow the TICKS rules:

T—Tight: Slings should be tight enough to hug your baby close to you.

I—In view at all times: You should always be able to see your baby's face by simply glancing down.

C—Close enough to kiss: By tipping your head forward you should be able to kiss your baby on the head.

K—Keep chin off the chest: A baby should never be curled so that their chin is forced onto their chest as this can restrict their breathing.

S—Supported back: The baby's back should be supported in a natural position so their tummy and chest are against you.



Baby walkers



Only use baby walkers on flat, even surfaces and block off access to stairs, steps, kitchens and fireplaces.

Hazards

- ✗ falling onto a hard surface or down steps
- ✗ finger entrapment from collapsing baby walkers
- ✗ choking from toys or play/entertainment attachments that come off easily
- ✗ burns and scalds from pulling down electrical appliances

Additional labels must advise you to:

- > use only on flat surfaces free of objects that could cause the walker to tip over
- > avoid burns, keep your baby away from hot liquids, ranges, radiators, space heaters, fireplaces etc.

What to look for

Mandatory standard

The mandatory standard is based on American Standard, ASTM F977 and covers warning labels, braking devices, stability, latches and locks.

Braking devices

- > An automatic braking system to stop the walker from going over steps or down stairs.

Compulsory label

It's illegal to sell baby walkers without these two labels clearly displayed:

! WARNING

Never leave child unattended

Always keep child in view while in walker

! WARNING
STAIR HAZARD

Avoid Serious injury or death

Block stairs/steps securely before using walker

Secure latches and locks

- > A locking device that can be used to stop the walker from moving.
- > Secure latches on all folding parts to stop the walker from collapsing.

Safety tips

- ✓ Always watch your baby when using the walker.
- ✓ Ensure your baby fits properly in the walker.
- ✓ Only leave your baby in the walker for a short time, such as 15 minutes, as overuse may delay learning to walk.
- ✓ Only use on a flat, even floor surface.
- ✓ Block off access to stairs, steps, kitchens and fireplaces.

Child safety experts recommend a stationary play centre as a safer alternative to baby walkers.

Bassinettes



Make sure the sides of the bassinette are at least 300 mm higher than the top of the mattress base to stop your baby falling out.

Hazards

- ✗ falling
- ✗ suffocation

What to look for

- > A sturdy bottom.
- > A wide stable base so the bassinette won't tip over.
- > A size and style to suit your baby's weight and age.
- > Sides at least 300 mm higher than the top of the mattress base to stop your baby from falling out.
- > A firm snug fitting mattress—no more than 75 mm thick—to prevent suffocation.
- > If the legs fold, ensure they can be locked and won't collapse when used.
- > Short decorative trims and bows that can't strangle your baby— or better still, a bassinette without decorative trims. Long decorations could strangle your baby.

Safety tips

- ✓ Always follow instructions carefully for assembly and use.
- ✓ Transfer your baby into a cot as soon as they first show signs of being able to roll.
- ✗ Never use pillows, folded quilts, bumpers or toys in a bassinette.

Child safety experts recommend placing babies in a cot from birth.

Bouncinettes



Never place the bouncinette on a table or other raised surface that could cause your baby to fall.

Hazards

- ✗ falling
- ✗ access to dangerous objects

What to look for

- > A waist strap and crotch strap to secure your baby.
- > A solid base, wider and longer than the area where your baby lies.
- > Rubber tips on the base to stop the bouncinette from walking or moving as your baby rocks.

Safety tips

- ✓ Always place your baby in the bouncinette's harness.
- ✓ Put the bouncinette on a flat floor surface, away from potential hazards, such as stairs and furniture.
- ✓ Stop using the bouncinette when your baby starts to roll.
- ✗ Never place the bouncinette on a table or other raised surface that could cause your baby to fall.
- ✗ Never carry your baby around in the bouncinette in case you trip or fall.
- ✗ Never let your baby fall asleep in a bouncinette—they can slip down and strangle on the waist strap.

Change tables



Change tables should have edges and barriers to prevent your baby from falling.

Hazard

- ✗ falling (from a distance of up to 1.5 metres to the floor)

What to look for

Safe change tables have:

- > edges and barriers raised high enough to prevent your baby from falling (100 mm is a rough guide)
- > no gaps or spaces near or on the changing surface that can trap your baby's fingers, arms, legs or head
- > secure locking devices, if the table is foldable.

Safety tips

- ✓ Change your baby on a large towel on the floor when a change table is not available.
- ✓ Have everything ready before you place your baby on a change table.
- ✓ Place anything that could harm your baby out of reach.
- ✓ Always keep one hand on your baby when using a change table.
- ✓ Ignore interruptions, or take your baby with you, if you have to leave the change table.
- ✓ Use a child safety harness, if one is available.
- ✗ Do not use a thick mattress that reduces the height of the barriers.

Child car restraints



Hazard

- ✘ injury or death in the event of a car accident

When children aren't properly restrained they're more likely to suffer serious injuries or die in the event of a car accident. Using adult seatbelts too early, using seatbelts incorrectly or using lap-only seatbelts all increase your child's risk of injury or death.

What to look for

Mandatory standard

The mandatory standard is based on AS/NZS 1754 and applies to all car restraints.

Who should wear a child car restraint?

Common national road rules are now in place in all states and territories except the Northern Territory. As a general rule, children up to seven years of age must travel in a dedicated child car restraint, suitable for their age and size.

Warnings

All child car restraints must come with these warnings:

- > Use the restraint exactly as shown in the instructions.
- > Always supervise children because they may be able to undo buckles.
- > DON'T LEAVE CHILDREN UNATTENDED IN THE CAR.
- > Don't alter or modify the restraint.
- > Have repairs made only by the manufacturer or agent.

Always ensure your child is wearing the restraint and that the restraint fits snugly, with no slack or twisted straps.

- > Don't allow the restraint to come into contact with polishes, oils, bleach and other chemicals.
- > Destroy the restraint if it has been in a severe crash, even if no damage is visible.

Other specific warnings come with some types of child car restraints—read them carefully and follow them.

Instructions

All child car restraints must come with instructions telling you how to install, maintain and use them.

Second-hand restraints

If using a second-hand restraint ensure it:

- > has the Australian Standard AS/NZS 1754 label
- > has never been involved in a crash
- > is in good condition with no frayed or broken straps and buckles
- > comes with the original instruction booklet.

Safety tips

- ✓ Have the restraint fitted at an approved fitting station (if possible). Contact your local road traffic authority or Kidsafe office for locations.
- ✓ Ensure your child is wearing the restraint and that it fits snugly, with no slack or twisted straps.

Child safety experts recommend you remove your baby from a car seat or capsule at the end of your journey, even if this means waking your baby. It is not safe for your baby to spend long periods of time in car seats, capsules or infant seats.

Children's nightclothes



Ensure children's nightclothes have the mandatory safety label attached to the inside neck of the garment.

Hazard

- x burns

What to look for

Mandatory standard

The mandatory standard is based on AS/NZS 1249:2003 and applies to children's night clothes and paper patterns for children's nightclothes.

Safety categories

Nightwear for children (and some daywear) must be labelled as either low fire danger or high fire danger according to the type of garment or fabric.

Labelling



The low fire hazard label is for close fitting nightwear made of fabric that doesn't catch fire easily, or is an all-in-one jumpsuit or romper in a 000-2 size.



The high fire danger warning label is for nightwear that cannot be labelled low fire danger but still passes some flammability tests.

Safety tips

- ✓ Choose close fitting nightwear with a low fire danger label.
- ✓ Remember that all fabric can burn. A 'low fire danger' label doesn't mean there is no fire danger.
- ✓ Place cots, bassinets and cradles well away from fireplaces, heaters and power points.
- x Don't let your children play around unguarded flame or heating sources, like a combustion stove, a barbecue or candles.
- x Don't allow children to play with, or have access to, matches, cigarette lighters or barbecue lighters.
- ✓ Contact your local fire authority for information on how to:
 - ✓ install and maintain smoke alarms in your home
 - ✓ prevent fires in and around your home
 - ✓ provide first aid for burns and scalds.

Children's plastic items with DEHP



Children may suffer damage to their developing reproductive systems if they frequently chew or suck on items with unsafe levels of DEHP.

Hazard

- ✗ possible damage to developing reproductive systems

Diethylhexyl phthalate (DEHP) is a chemical used to make plastics soft and flexible. Children may suffer damage to their developing reproductive systems if they frequently chew or suck on items with unsafe levels of DEHP.

Australia has a ban on children's plastic items with unsafe levels of DEHP. The ban covers items for babies and toddlers, such as:

- > toys
- > dummies, pacifiers, teething rings, teething rails, rattles, bibs, gum soothers and other such comforting objects
- > feeding bottles, sip or sucking cups, bowls, plates and cutlery.

You can't see DEHP. The ACCC and consumer product safety regulators regularly check for compliance with mandatory standards and bans. If in doubt, ask retailers to confirm that the plastic items meet the mandatory standard.

Safety tip

- ✗ Don't allow children to mouth or suck plastic products for long periods of time.

Cots-antique



Antique cots must come with a certificate that warns you it's not safe to place a child in the cot.

What to look for

Compulsory certificate

- > Antique cots must come with a certificate that warns you it's not safe to place a child in the cot.

Compulsory labels

- > Antique cots must come with two permanently fixed metal plaques on the cot with the words:

WARNING: this cot does not meet the mandatory safety standard. For display purposes only. It is dangerous to place a child in this cot.

Safety tips

- ✗ Never let your baby sleep in an antique cot.

Cots-household



Place the cot in a safe spot away from hazards and use locking brakes to fix a cot with castors in position.

Hazards

- ✗ falls
- ✗ strangulation
- ✗ suffocation
- ✗ arm, leg and head traps

Many children need hospital treatment every year for serious injuries related to cots.

What to look for

Mandatory standard

The mandatory standard is based on AS/NZS 2172:2003.

Compulsory measurements

For fixed-based cots

The distance from the mattress base to the lowest part of the top of the cot should be at least:

- > 600 mm when drop-side is up
- > 250 mm when drop-side is down.

For adjustable cots

Adjustable cots should only have two base heights. The distance between the top of the mattress base and the lowest part of the top of the cot should be at least:

- > 400 mm when the base is in highest position and the drop-side is up
- > 600 mm when the base is in the lowest position and the drop-side is up
- > 250 mm when the base is in highest position and the drop-side is down.

For all cots—gap sizes

- > 50 mm to 95 mm of space between bars or panels—bigger gaps can trap your baby's head or create spaces large enough for your baby to fall through
- > no more than 20 mm of space between cot sides or ends and a centred mattress—your baby can get stuck between bigger gaps and suffocate
- > no gaps or openings between 30 mm and 50 mm—these can trap your baby's arms or legs.

Cots-household *continued*

Bits that stick out (protrusions)

- > second-hand cots—no more than 8 mm from the top or sides
- > new cots—no more than 5 mm from the top or sides
- > no fittings that can catch your baby's clothes and cause strangulation

Legs

The mandatory standard allows cots to have one of the following:

- > two castors (wheels) or two glides
- > two castors (wheels) with brakes and two glides, or
- > four castors (wheels)—at least two must have brakes.

Safety tips

- ✓ Always follow instructions carefully when assembling and using a cot.
- ✓ Set an adjustable mattress base at the lowest point as soon as your baby can sit up.
- ✓ Place the cot in a safe spot away from hazards like electrical appliances, windows or blind cords.
- ✓ Use locking brakes on cots with castors (wheels).
- ✓ Put the drop-side up when your baby is sleeping.
- ✗ Never put these things in a cot with your baby:
 - ✗ pillows, especially if your baby is under two
 - ✗ cot bumpers
 - ✗ electric blankets or hot water bottles
 - ✗ toys, books or items that a growing baby can use to climb to the top of the sides or ends of the cot and fall
 - ✗ objects that could smother or strangle your baby.

Regularly check drop-side cots

While cots with a drop-side make it easier to get your child in and out, you must regularly check this moving part to ensure it's safe.

When a drop-side doesn't fit properly, is worn, or has loose or missing parts, children can fall out or become trapped in gaps.

Safe sleeping

It's very important to provide a safe sleeping surface for your baby. Only use a firm mattress that fits snugly into the cot. Don't use cot bumpers or soft bedding as these have been associated with fatal sleep accidents. Don't use extra mattresses. Be extremely cautious about using products advertised as reducing the risk factors associated with Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)—no product has been proven to achieve this. If you're concerned, contact your local Kidsafe office or SIDS and Kids to seek advice on safe infant sleeping.



Cots-portable folding



Look for detailed instructions and warnings on the inside base of the cot that you can read before putting the mattress in place.

Use only one snug fitting mattress. Gaps caused by using an extra mattress can trap a baby and cause suffocation.

Hazards

- ✘ falls
- ✘ strangulation
- ✘ suffocation
- ✘ trapping of fingers, arms, legs and head
- ✘ crushing in cases where the folding cot collapses

Since January 2000, a number of babies in Australia have died in incidents associated with portable cots.

What to look for

Mandatory standard

The mandatory standard is based on AS/NZS 2195:1999.

Compulsory warning labels

The inside of all folding cots must have permanent and clear warning labels covering:

- > instructions for assembly and locking procedures
- > a warning to check before each use that the cot is correctly assembled and locking devices are fully engaged
- > either a warning to use a mattress of specified dimensions, or a warning to only use the mattress supplied by the manufacturer
- > a warning not to add an extra mattress as this may suffocate your baby.

Cots-portable folding *continued*

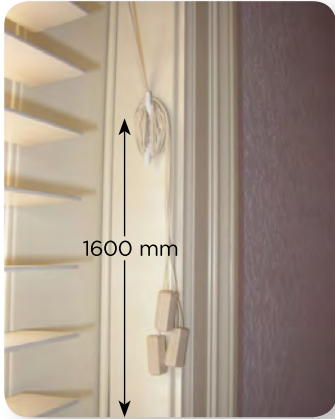
Compulsory features

- > A minimum side height of 550 mm. This is from the top of the base (without the mattress) to the top of the lowest side or end of the cot.
- > A minimum side height of 500 mm when the mattress is fitted.
- > A minimum side height of 250 mm for cots with a bassinette or upper mattress base.
- > Secure latches on folding mechanisms to prevent accidental collapse.
- > No dangerous protrusions that can snag clothing.
- > No gaps that can trap parts of your baby's body.
- > Only one snug fitting mattress—gaps can trap your baby's head and cause suffocation.
- > All padding or cushioning material, including the mattress, must be firm enough to stop it from covering your baby's face.
- > No features on the sides or ends that could become a foothold that enables your baby to climb and fall out of the cot.

Safety tips

- ✓ Stop using the cot if your baby can undo latches.
- ✓ Stop using the cot when your baby weighs more than 15 kg.
- ✓ Place the cot away from potential hazards.
- ✓ Check that latches are securely locked before use.
- ✓ Check regularly for:
 - tears in vinyl and fabric
 - loose or broken locks and tears that could cause the cot to collapse.
- ✗ Never put pillows, cot bumpers or an extra mattress or toys in a portable cot, as your baby can become trapped and suffocate between these items or can use these items as a foothold to climb out of the cot.
- ✗ Never use a portable cot if your baby weighs more than 15 kg.
- ✗ Never use a portable cot for long-term sleeping arrangements.
- ✗ Never put an extra mattress in the cot or use a mattress not intended for the cot.

Curtain and blind cords



Ensure curtain and blind cords are cut or tied around a cleat at least 1600 mm above the floor.

Hazard

- ✗ strangulation on cord loops and long cords

Loose and looped cords can quickly tangle around a child's neck and strangle them. Since the early 1990s at least 15 children in Australia have died in this way.

What to look for

Mandatory standard

A mandatory standard applies to products supplied after 30 December 2010 and requires all new corded internal window coverings (curtains and blinds) to come with:

- > warning labels
- > installation instructions
- > any parts specified in the instructions.

Warning on retail package

WARNING: CURTAIN AND BLIND CORDS HAVE CAUSED THE DEATH OF YOUNG CHILDREN AND MUST BE INSTALLED SO THAT THEY ARE NOT A STRANGULATION HAZARD. FOLLOW THE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS.

WARNING: Young children have died by wrapping loose curtain and blind cords or chains around their necks. Secure cords or chains with cord guides or keep them out of reach by winding them around a cleat. Move cots and furniture away from window covering cords or chains. Do not remove this label.

Warning on cord

WARNING: Young children have died by wrapping loose curtain and blind cords or chains around their necks. Secure cords or chains with cord guides or keep them out of reach by winding them around a cleat. Move cots and furniture away from window covering cords or chains. Do not remove this label.

Curtain and blind cords *continued*

Installation instructions

Installation instructions must tell you how to install the window covering to avoid creating a strangulation hazard for children. This includes:

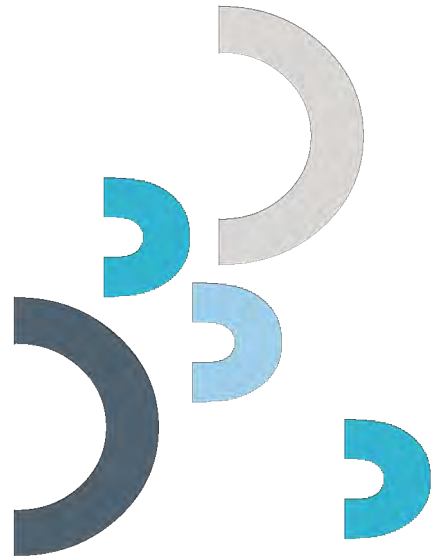
- > installing the blind or curtain so a loose cord can't form a loop 220 mm or longer, at a height lower than 1600 mm above the floor
- > installing a cord guide lower than 1600 mm above the floor if it's possible for a loop to form in the cord
- > ensuring cord guides installed lower than 1600 mm above floor level are designed to prevent a child from being able to remove the cord
- > placing any cleat used to secure a cord at least 1600 mm above the floor.

Cords on existing blinds or curtains

- > Check all your window furnishings and fix all long, loose or looped cords so they are out of your children's reach.
- > Buy cleats with at least one screw hole, or tensioning devices from a hardware or window furnishing shop, and use these to secure cords in a place that is out of your children's reach.
- > Where possible, cut any dangerous loops out of cords and attach a tassel to the end of each strand. Some blinds won't operate if you do this—seek professional advice first.
- > If you can't secure unsafe cords out of reach, get a reliable tradesperson to do it for you. If you're renting a home, seek help from your landlord or property manager.
- > Never secure cleats or tensioning devices using materials such as double-sided tape or glue because they will fall off when a load is placed on them.

Safety tips

- ✓ Keep your children away from all cords.
- ✗ Don't put cots, beds, playpens or furniture that your baby or toddler can climb on near corded curtains or blinds.
- ✗ Never leave children alone in a room with cords they can reach.



Flotation and swimming aids



Your child could drown when using a flotation aid if the person supervising them doesn't keep them within arm's reach.

Hazards

- ✗ death by drowning
- ✗ permanent brain injury caused by immersion

Children can drown when using a flotation aid if the person supervising them doesn't keep them within arm's reach.

What to look for

Mandatory standard

The mandatory standard is based on Australian Standard AS 1900-2002 and covers items such as armbands, attached rings and swimming aid vests.

Labelling

These labels must appear on aids and vests.

Flotation aid label

WARNING:
USE ONLY UNDER COMPETENT SUPERVISION

Swimming aid vest label

WARNING:
USE ONLY UNDER COMPETENT SUPERVISION

Safety tips

- ✓ Read the warning labels and packaging carefully and follow instructions for proper assembly.
- ✓ Ensure a competent person constantly supervises your children and keeps them within arm's reach when they are using flotation or swimming aids. Flotation and swimming aids are not safety devices. They're designed to help your children feel confident in water and to help teach them to swim.
- ✓ Follow the manufacturer's age and/or weight recommendations when choosing flotation and swimming aids, as products for younger children may not be strong enough to support an older child's weight.
- ✓ Follow instructions for proper use. Your children can drown if they don't use these aids properly, if the aids deflate during use or if they're used without a competent supervisor being within arm's reach.

High chairs



To prevent falls when using a high chair, always remember to place your baby in a safety harness or a restraint system that effectively restricts your baby from standing up or slipping down from a seated position.

Hazard

- ✗ falling

What to look for

- > A five-point harness or any other restraint system that effectively restricts the child from standing up or slipping down from a seated position.
- > A sturdy, strong framework and wide, stable base.
- > A backrest that doesn't move, sag or collapse under pressure.
- > If the chair is folding, make sure it's stable and that all locks work and they're locked in place before each use.
- > No sharp edges or points and moving parts that can cut, trap or crush your baby's fingers.
- > If the chair has castors (wheels) or glides, make sure it has one of the following:
 - two castors (wheels)
 - two glides
 - two castors (wheels—both with brakes) and two guides
 - four castors (wheels)—two with brakes.

Safety tips

- ✓ Always use the harness or restraint system.
- ✓ Make sure your baby's hands are not in the way when you raise or lower the high chair tray.
- ✓ Always watch your baby in the high chair and take your baby with you if you need to leave the room. Never leave your baby unsupervised.
- ✓ Stop your baby from standing or trying to climb out of or into the high chair.
- ✓ Position the high chair at least 500 mm away from windows, doors, stoves, electrical appliances and curtain or blind cords.
- ✓ Place the high chair out of reach when not in use.
- ✓ Check for loose or broken parts and exposed foam on the seat that could choke your baby.
- ✗ Never allow other children to play near or climb onto the high chair.

Household furniture



Secure tall furniture to a wall so that it does not fall on infants if they grab it or climb on it.

Hazards

- ✗ fractures, head injuries, and possibly death, if your child is crushed by unstable furniture or appliances that topple over
- ✗ cuts and lacerations from sharp edges and unsafe glass
- ✗ eye injuries, fractures, cuts and sprains resulting from falls or collisions involving tables, chairs and stools

All it can take is the weight of a small child climbing on a piece of furniture for it to topple over.

Safety tips

- ✓ Secure unstable furniture and large TV sets to the wall.
- ✓ Stop children from grabbing onto or climbing on furniture.

What to look for

- > Furniture with a wide stable base that your child can't:
 - pull down on themselves
 - climb onto and fall from.
- > Furniture with round smooth edges that can't cut or bruise your child.
- > Tall furniture that can be secured to a wall with angle braces or anchors, so it doesn't fall on your child if they grab it or climb on it. This includes wall units, book cases and chests of drawers or tallboys.
- > TV and sound system cabinets with a wide, deep and stable base large enough to hold all equipment safely. This prevents cabinets from tipping over from the weight of appliances.
- > Large-screen TVs that can be positioned well back on cabinets or anchored to the wall to prevent them from toppling onto children playing or climbing.
- > Glass furniture that is only made from safety glass.

Inflatable toys, novelties and furniture containing beads



Children can become seriously ill or die after swallowing, choking on or inhaling the polystyrene beads.

Hazards

- ✗ suffocation (from inhalation)
- ✗ respiratory infections
- ✗ choking (from ingestion)

Inflatable toys and novelties are made of soft plastic or other similar material and are designed to be inflated. Sometimes the toys and novelties also contain loose pellets or small particles, generally made from polystyrene beads or a similar synthetic material.

These products are banned because children can become seriously ill or die after swallowing, choking on or inhaling the polystyrene beads.

These beads don't show up on x-rays, so it's very difficult for doctors to diagnose the cause of the problem or a related illness and to locate and remove the beads.

Playpens



Ensure that all folding parts have latches that lock securely and cannot be undone by your baby.

Hazards

- ✗ strangulation—clothes can get caught on sharp fittings
- ✗ falls
- ✗ finger, arm, leg and head traps

What to look for

Measurements

- > sides—at least 500 mm high
- > spaces between bars—between 50 mm and 95 mm (larger gaps can trap your baby's head)

Latches and locks

- > Folding parts should have latches that lock securely and can't be undone by your baby

No snags

- > No sharp fittings or parts that can snag your baby's clothes.

Strength

- > A strong, sturdy playpen that won't tip over when your baby leans on the sides.

Safety tips

- ✓ Place the playpen away from hazards such as blind cords, electrical appliances, furniture, etc.
- ✓ Keep your baby within your sight while using the playpen. Never leave your baby alone in a playpen.
- ✓ Make sure all latches are locked securely before use.
- ✓ Stop using the playpen when your baby can undo the latches.
- ✗ Don't use a portable cot as a playpen.

Portable pools



Children can drown in very shallow water. Always empty smaller pools when not in use.

Hazards

- ✗ death by drowning
- ✗ permanent brain injury caused by immersion

Children can drown in very shallow water. Children revived from near-drowning may suffer permanent brain injury from lack of oxygen to the brain.

What to look for

Mandatory standard

The mandatory standard requires all portable pools supplied after 30 March 2014 to carry specific warnings.

Compulsory warnings

All portable pools must display this safety sign:



If a portable pool is less than 300 mm deep, it must display the following warning:

WARNING!

Children have drowned in portable swimming pools.

Ensure active adult supervision at all times.

Do not leave children unsupervised in or around the pool—keep them within arm's reach.

Empty and store safely after use.

If a portable pool is 300 mm deep or more, it must display the following warning:

WARNING!

Children have drowned in portable swimming pools.

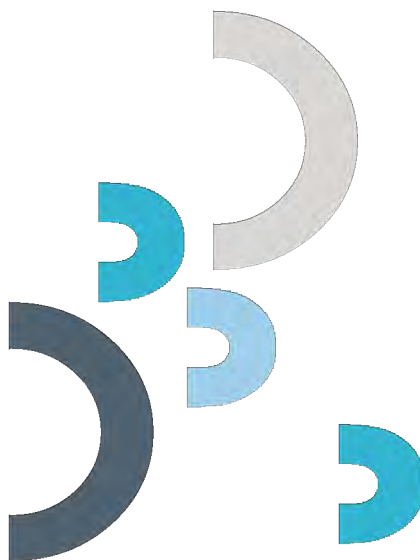
Ensure active adult supervision at all times.

Do not leave children unsupervised in or around the pool—keep them within arm's reach.

Pool fencing laws apply to this pool. Consult your local government authority for fencing requirements.

Safety tips

- ✓ Always empty smaller pools when not in use.
- ✓ Always store portable pools safely away from young children when not in use. Store the pool to prevent small amounts of water being collected in the pool due to rain or nearby sprinklers.
- ✓ Ensure larger inflatable or portable pools are surrounded by a swimming pool fence. Consult your local government authority for fencing requirements.
- ✓ Always actively supervise children from within arm's reach when they are in and around the water.
- ✗ Never rely on older children to supervise younger children, no matter how confident you are about their ability to watch the younger child.



Prams and strollers



Look for a pram that has a strong frame and features easy steering, solid, durable wheels and locks that work.

Hazards

- ✗ death and serious injury if you lose control of the pram or stroller
- ✗ strangulation or suffocation if babies become trapped in parts of the pram or stroller
- ✗ falling
- ✗ trapping and pinching of fingers or limbs, or severing of fingers

Several children in Australia have died after a pram or stroller they were in rolled away. Many children need hospital treatment every year for an injury related to a pram or stroller.

What to look for

Mandatory standard

The mandatory standard is based on AS/NZS 2088:2000.

Safety features and labels

Harness

The pram or stroller must have a five-point restraint harness that goes around your baby's waist and between their legs.

The harness must have the following warning label permanently attached:

WARNING: USE THIS HARNESS AT ALL TIMES.

Parking brakes

All prams and strollers must have at least one or more parking brakes, with red parking brake levers.

Prams and strollers must have the following warning label permanently attached:

WARNING:
 FOLLOW THE MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS.
 PUT ON ALL THE BRAKES WHENEVER YOU PARK THE PRAM/STROLLER*.
 DO NOT LEAVE CHILDREN UNATTENDED.
 DO NOT CARRY EXTRA CHILDREN OR BAGS ON THIS PRAM/STROLLER*. MAKE SURE CHILDREN ARE CLEAR OF ANY MOVING PARTS IF YOU ADJUST THE PRAM/STROLLER*, OTHERWISE THEY MAY BE INJURED.

* Either the word pram or stroller will be used on warning label, depending upon the product.

Tether strap

All prams and strollers must have a suitable tether strap that is:

- > as short as practical
- > does not form a loop with a perimeter of 360 mm or more.

Straps must have the following warning label permanently attached:

**WARNING: USE THIS STRAP
TO STOP THE PRAM/STROLLER*
ROLLING AWAY.**

* Either the word pram or stroller will be used on warning label, depending upon the product.

Strength

- > strong frame—not rickety
- > easy steering
- > a strong and secure footrest

Latches and locks

- > Frame locks on folding prams and strollers that work and don't collapse during use.
- > Secure locks on reclining backs so your baby can lie down safely.
- > Clear instructions on how to set up, lock and fold the pram or stroller.

Carry basket

- > A carry basket that won't tip or rock the pram when full—best located in a central spot under the pram.

Safety tips

- ✓ Always read and follow instructions.
- ✓ Always park the pram or stroller parallel to hazards, such as water or railway tracks so it can't roll into danger.
- ✓ Stay with your baby while they're in the pram or stroller.
- ✓ Apply the parking brake when the pram or stroller is stationary.
- ✓ Use the tether strap and harness.
- ✓ Check that frame latches and fabric fasteners are locked before use.
- ✓ Watch your baby while in the pram or stroller.
- ✓ Only use the pram or stroller for the intended number of babies.
- ✓ Stop your baby from standing on or leaning out of the pram or stroller.
- ✓ Watch other children and stop them from climbing or leaning on the pram or stroller.
- ✓ Remove your baby from the pram or stroller before adjusting any moving parts.
- ✓ Supervise other children outside the pram or stroller and keep children and fingers away from the hinge mechanism when folding and unfolding the pram or stroller.
- ✗ Never use a pram or stroller as a substitute for a cot. If your baby is left to sleep in a pram or stroller, they can become trapped between parts and strangle or suffocate.
- ✗ Never use a pillow, cushion or bumpers.
- ✗ Never hang shopping bags on handles, as these can tip the pram or stroller over.
- ✗ Don't let other young children push the pram or stroller without your help.

Child safety experts recommend that a pram may not be a suitable place for your baby to sleep if unobserved.

Rocker chairs



Look for a five-point harness that goes over your baby's shoulders, round their waist and between their legs.

Hazards

- ✗ falls
- ✗ access to dangerous objects

What to look for

Harness

- > A five-point harness that goes over your baby's shoulders, around their waist and between their legs.

Strength and stability

- > A solid base, wider and longer than the area where your baby lies.
- > Rubber tips on the base to stop the rocker from walking or moving as your baby rocks.

Safety tips

- ✓ Always place your baby in the harness.
- ✓ Always put the rocker on a flat floor surface away from hazards.
- ✓ Stop using the rocker when your baby starts to roll.
- ✗ Never place the rocker on a table or other raised surface when your baby is using it.
- ✗ Never carry your baby around in the rocker in case you trip or fall.

Rocking cradles



Look for a permanent child resistant lock that stops the cradle from rocking when you are not there to watch the baby.

Hazards

- ✗ falls
- ✗ access to dangerous objects

What to look for

Locking devices

- > A permanent child-resistant lock that stops the cradle from rocking when you're not there to watch your baby.

Tilt limiter

- > A device that limits the tilt of the cradle to an angle that is no more than 10 degrees from the cradle's horizontal position.

Safety tips

- ✓ Always follow assembly and use instructions carefully, especially in relation to the locking device, to stop the cradle from rocking when you're not with your baby.
- ✓ Place the rocking cradle away from potential hazards.
- ✗ Never use pillows, soft mattresses, cot bumpers or folded quilts in a rocking cradle.

Safety gates



There are various types of safety gates. Ensure the gate you're using is intended for its purpose.

Hazards

- ✗ arm, leg and head traps
- ✗ falls

Types of gates

Removable gates

A pressure-mounted gate can be tightened to fit between two solid wall surfaces to stop toddlers from accessing dangerous places.

Wall-mounted gates

A wall-mounted or hardware gate can be screwed to a solid wall or post or made to form angles to cover odd-shaped areas.

What to look for

Gates for the top of stairs

Check that the gate is intended for this use and can be securely mounted. Gates with a fixed horizontal bar at the bottom may create a trip hazard even when the gate is open—people can fall down the stairs.

Spaces between bars

- > Spaces should be between 50 mm and 95 mm so your toddler's head can't get trapped.

Types of gates to avoid

- ✗ Older crisscross, diamond-shaped, accordion gates, as these can trap your toddler's head and clothing.
- ✗ Gates with a fixed horizontal bar at the bottom—people can trip over the bar when the gate is open.
- ✗ Pet gates, as these are not secure enough or suitable to use with children.

Safety tips

- ✓ Securely attach the gate.
- ✗ Never step over a safety gate while carrying your baby.

Toy boxes



If the toy box has a lock, it must be a simple one that a trapped child can open from the inside.

Hazards

- ✗ injuries to head, neck and hands from falling lids
- ✗ suffocation after being trapped

Safety tip

- ✓ Remove lids that are heavy or have a child resistant lock.

What to look for

Lids

- > Toy boxes with no lid or a removable, lightweight lid.
- > Stoppers on the inside of the lid that make a gap of 12 mm or more when the lid is closed. This stops the lid from crushing fingers and allows a trapped baby to breathe.

Locks

- > If the toy box has a lock, it must be a simple one that a trapped child can open from the inside.

Ventilation holes

- > Ventilation holes that allow a trapped child to breathe.

Weight

- > A lightweight plastic crate is safer than a heavy box with a lid.

Toys and finger paints with unsafe levels of lead and other elements



Lead is a toxic substance that causes a range of illnesses when people swallow or inhale small particles.

Hazards

Lead and some other elements in unsafe levels, found in toys and finger paints, are toxic and can cause a range of illnesses when swallowed, inhaled or absorbed through the skin.

Young children under five years of age are at greater risk from lead exposure because they:

- > often place items in their mouths during play
- > are more likely to put their hands to their mouths
- > can absorb up to 60 per cent of the lead or other elements to which they're exposed
- > absorb five times more lead than adults
- > are more sensitive to the effects of lead because their brains are less developed and their bodies are still developing.

Young children can suffer significant and sometimes permanent damage to their physical and mental health if they swallow finger paints containing lead or other elements, or inhale or absorb lead and other elements through their skin. In some cases, they can die.

The type of illnesses suffered as a result of exposure to lead and other elements depends on the degree and length of exposure.

If in doubt, ask retailers to confirm that the toys and finger paints meet this mandatory standard.

What to look for

Mandatory standard

- > The mandatory standard is based on AS/NZS ISO 8124 and makes it illegal to sell toys and finger paints with unsafe levels of lead and other elements in Australia.

Safety tips

- ✓ Seek immediate medical attention if your child becomes sick after placing objects in their mouth.
- ✓ Check www.recalls.gov.au for banned and recalled toys.

Toys for babies



Make sure toys for children up to and including 36 months are a suitable size and won't cause choking or suffocation.

Hazards

- ✗ choking if children under three inhale small parts
- ✗ serious illness if children under three swallow small parts
- ✗ strangulation on cords, ribbons and elastic longer than 220 mm (toys for infants up to 18 months)
- ✗ drowning due to lack of supervision when infants are using flotation toys
- ✗ cuts and lacerations from toys with sharp edges

What to look for

Mandatory standard

The mandatory standard is based on AS/NZS ISO 8124.1:2002 and aims to make sure toys for children up to and including 36 months are a suitable size and won't cause choking or suffocation. It covers:

- > toys with small parts
- > toys that break easily and create small parts
- > specific types of toys such as pom-poms, small balls and pre-school play figures.

Also look for any age grading label that states the suitability of the toy for children less than 36 months of age. Consider if toys can withstand being dropped on a hard surface without breaking into small parts or if they can easily be twisted and pulled apart into small pieces by your child, creating a choking hazard.

Suitable toys

Always give children under three toys that:

- ✓ small hands can easily hold, shake or rattle
- ✓ have simple actions, surprises or sounds and pictures for babies to identify
- ✓ have simple letters or numbers for babies to identify
- ✓ have large shapes that babies can easily pick up and sort through
- ✓ are safe if babies place them in their mouths
- ✓ are strong and won't break into small, brittle parts that can cut, or cause a choking or suffocation hazard.

Toys for babies *continued*

Safety tips

Building blocks

Choose blocks with:

- ✓ no small parts
- ✓ non-toxic paints and lacquers
- ✓ no sharp edges or points
- ✓ no splinters.

Mobiles and toys for cots, playpens or prams

Mobiles and toys attached to a cot, playpen or pram should be removed when your baby or toddler begins to push up on their hands and knees.

Plastic packaging on toys

Immediately dispose of plastic packaging on toys, as babies and toddlers can suffocate if they place these over their heads, faces or mouths.

Push-along/pull-along toys

These toys may have a cord that babies and toddlers can pull or a rigid handle they can push. Make sure:

- ✓ your baby or toddler can't become tangled and risk being strangled in a cord that is longer than 220 mm
- ✓ rigid handles on push-along toys are solid, don't come off easily and have no sharp edges.

Ride-on toys

Toddlers ride these types of toys by pushing along the ground with their legs and feet.

- ✓ Always choose a stable ride-on toy that doesn't tip in any direction when your toddler is sitting on it.

Stuffed toys

- ✓ Make sure there are no small parts that can come off easily and become trapped in your baby's throat or windpipe.
- ✓ Keep soft toys out of sleeping environments for babies under 12 months of age as the toys may cover the nose and mouth and interfere with breathing.

Toys with cords or elastic

- ✓ Toys intended to be strung across a cot or play pen with string, cords, elastic or straps, should have proper instructions for assembly and use. Follow these to avoid any risk of your baby or toddler being strangled.

Toys with small parts

- ✓ Check that toys for children under three years old have no small parts that could fit easily into a cylinder pencil sharpener (approximate diameter 32 mm). Pieces of this size can easily choke or suffocate them or, if swallowed, cause internal blockages.

Water toys

- ✓ Remember that rings, inflatable arm bands, kick boards and small inflatable toys are not safety devices.

Toys with small magnets



There have been an unacceptable number of injuries to children who have swallowed magnets that have fallen off toys.

Hazards

- ✗ serious infections and death if swallowed magnets stick together across the intestines, possibly tearing the intestinal wall or other organs
- ✗ choking if magnets become lodged in your child's throat
- ✗ suffocation if a magnet becomes lodged in your child's windpipe

What to look for

Mandatory standard

The mandatory standard is based on AS/NZS ISO 8124.1:2002 and aims to ensure toys for children don't contain dangerous magnets that may cause serious injury or death. It covers toys that:

- > are designed or clearly intended for children under 14 years of age to play with
- > contain hazardous small magnets that are loose, attached or embedded in components of toys.

Labelling

The packaging and instructions on any toys that have a hazardous magnet or magnetic component must have a warning similar to this:

Warning! The product contains small magnet(s). Swallowed magnets can stick together across intestines causing serious infections and death. Seek immediate medical attention if magnet(s) are swallowed or inhaled.

Toys suitable for young children

Toys with powerful magnets are not suitable for young children. Only use magnetic letters, shapes or numbers with your young children that:

- > are too big to fit in their mouth
- > have securely attached magnets or magnets embedded in the toy
- > are suitable for their age.

While some shops suggest that small figures, numbers or letters with magnets are suitable for young children, these toys are not suitable when the:

- > figures, letters or numbers are small enough to choke or suffocate children up to and including 36 months old
- > magnets on the back are small enough to choke or suffocate young children, are loosely attached and likely to come off.

Safety tips

- ✓ Always watch babies when they're playing with toys that have magnets.
- ✓ Dispose of toys if magnets become loose.
- ✓ Choose only toys that suit the age of your child.
- ✓ Seek urgent medical help if you suspect your child has swallowed magnets.

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