

Children's Product Safety

Safety Tips:

Shopping Advice for Choosing Toys:

- Make sure you purchase appropriate toys based on the child's age, abilities and skill level.
- Avoid toys with sharp edges or small parts for children under 3 years of age who may still mouth their toys.
- Check the quality of toys that have small magnets. You DO NOT want magnets to become loose. They pose both a choking and health hazard if swallowed.
- Make sure that batteries in a toy are not accessible to the child. Look for a screwed in cover or batteries that are firmly attached and out of reach of the child.
- If the toy contains a liquid or gel, find out what the substance is. Make sure you feel comfortable with what the substance is, and if not, do not buy the item.
- Inspect the condition of the toy if you are purchasing it at a thrift or second-hand store, or garage sale.
- Listen closely to toys that make sounds. Make sure it is not too loud thereby avoiding damage to the child's hearing. Also look for a volume control.
- Avoid toys with strings, straps or cords that are longer than seven inches. These can pose a potential strangulation hazard.

Keeping Children Safe After the Purchase of a Toy:

- Read the owner's manual and follow all assembly instructions.
- Fill out and submit the product registration card. The company will be able to contact you if there is a recall or safety concern with the item.
- Keep toys with sharp edges or small parts away from younger children. In a home with both older and young children, this can be a challenge, but worth the effort.
- Repair or discard broken toys.

Remember: Always check recall lists and compare it with the toys you received as gifts or currently have in your home. For recall information visit <http://www.recalls.gov>.

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Consumer Resources:

Consumer's looking for Recall information, laws, guidelines and regulations, or general consumer product safety information, will find the following websites useful.

- New York State Consumer Protection Board - <http://www.nysconsumer.gov>
The New York State Consumer Protection Board's (CPB) core mission is to protect New Yorkers by publicizing unscrupulous and questionable business practices and product recalls; conducting investigations and hearings; enforcing the "Do Not Call Law"; researching issues; developing legislation; creating consumer education programs and materials; responding to individual marketplace complaints by securing voluntary agreements; and, representing the interests of consumers before the Public Service Commission (PSC) and other State and federal agencies.
- U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission- <http://www.cpsc.gov>
The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of serious injury or death from thousands of types of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. Its website has information for consumers and business regarding product safety information and regulatory compliance.
- www.recalls.gov- <http://www.recalls.gov>
To provide better service in alerting the American people to unsafe, hazardous or defective products, six federal agencies with vastly different jurisdictions have joined together to create www.recalls.gov -- a "one stop shop" for U.S. Government recalls.
- Neighborhood Safety Network - <http://www.cpsc.gov/nsn/nsn.html>
In carrying out its mission, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) created the Neighborhood Safety Network (NSN) to help you and your organization distribute important, lifesaving safety information to those that might otherwise not get it. By joining the NSN, you will receive messages from CPSC about new, timely information, such as the latest product safety posters, which you can download and distribute.
- Safe Kids USA - <http://www.usa.safekids.org>
Safe Kids USA is a member of Safe Kids Worldwide, a global network of organizations whose mission is to prevent accidental childhood injury, a leading killer of children 14 and under. More than 450 coalitions in 16 countries bring together health and safety experts, educators, corporations, foundations, governments and volunteers to educate and protect families.