

Toy Safety Checklist

Over 13 million toys have been recalled in the past year, leaving many parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends confused about what to get kids, what might be dangerous and how to make it a safe and healthy holiday for everyone.

The chart below gives you a few pointers on how to make sure a toy is safe for a child. You should also check the Consumer Products website on a regular basis for product recalls news at:

www.cpsc.gov (click on product recalls - toys)



GENERAL

- Check the label to make sure the toy is “age-appropriate” (right for the age of the child).
- Make sure there are no small parts that could become loose and be swallowed, inhaled or stuffed into an ear or nose.
- Watch for slots, holes or hinges that can pinch a child’s fingers or skin.
- Make sure that strings or cords on the toy are not long enough to form a noose.
- If the toy winds-up, make sure the mechanism is enclosed to avoid catching hair, fingers or clothing.
- Watch for cups and other plastic items that could be placed over a child’s nose and mouth, causing suffocation.
- Use the “toilet paper roll” test. If it’s small enough to fit in an empty toilet paper roll, it’s small enough for a child to choke on.
- Don’t buy toys with sharp points or edges. Watch for plastic toys that can break and leave a sharp, jagged edge.

STUFFED ANIMALS & DOLLS

- Make sure it’s washable so you can get rid of dirt and germs.
- Material should be labeled “flame-resistant” or “flame-retardant.”
- Check hard eyes and noses on stuffed toys and dolls. Make sure they can’t be pulled off and swallowed.
- Make sure no part is attached with a staple or straight pin.

PAINTED TOYS

- Check www.cpsc.gov for recalls on toys with paint that may contain lead.
- In general, don’t buy small painted toys for children who are still putting toys in their mouths.
- Check for any chipped paint.
- Make sure used toys and furniture haven’t been repainted with lead-based paint.

MAGNETS

Magnets pose a special danger for small children and can kill them. If two or more are swallowed they can get trapped in the intestine, sticking together and causing deadly perforations or holes, infections and blood poisoning. Don’t let children play with small magnets. Also be aware that other toys and non-toy items may contain small magnets as part of fasteners and latches. **Get immediate medical attention if you think your child may have swallowed a magnet.**