How to Report A Dangerous Toy

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has the right to recall dangerous toys and products from the market. If you think a toy or product is harmful to your child, contact the CPSC and submit a report by contacting 800-638-2772, info@cpsc.gov or visiting cpsc.gov.

Stay informed of recalls, visit recalls.gov for an archive of old recalls and to sign up to receive email alerts of new recalls.

References

- About.com: pediatrics.about.com/toys.about.com
- eHow.com
- Kids Health: kidshealth.org/parent
- Made Safe Toys: makesafetoys.org
- Safe Kids: safekids.org
- U.S. PIRG: uspirg.org/issues/toy-safety
- World Against Toys Causing Harm: toysafety.org

For more information on the Miller Children’s Safety Coalition program and the Kohl’s Keeping Kids Safe program, please visit: MillerChildrens.org/kohls-cares
Choking is the most common cause of toy-related deaths.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), at least 41 children choked to death between 2005 and 2009 on balloons, toys or toy parts. Before you buy a toy for your child, check to see if the toy is right for your child’s age. There are a lot of hidden hazards when it comes to toys, which parents may not be aware of.

Here are some things to look out for when buying the right toy for your child:

- **Sharp Points** - May cut a child’s skin.
- **Propelled Objects** - Such as arrows or darts, can cause injury.
- **Electric Toys** - If poorly made could shock or burn a child.
- **Infant Toys** - Should be lead-free and large enough so that they cannot enter and become stuck in an infant’s throat.
- **Long Cords or Strings** - Can get tangled and could become a hazard.
- **Small Parts** - Young children have a tendency to mouth and chew on things which could lead to swallowing items that could cause them to choke.
- **Loud toys** - Could cause hearing damage if too loud.
- **Lead and Toxic Chemicals**
- **Toys with Magnets and Batteries** - If a child swallows even one magnet, seek immediate medical attention, could cause fatal internal injuries.

**Tips for Parents**

**Make Sure Toys are Sturdy and Strong**
Check to see if the toy is sturdy and built of strong shatter proof material. In case of any falls or accidents, the toy should not break into pieces with sharp edges as this can cause bodily injury to the child.

**After the Toy is Opened**
Be sure to get rid of any plastic wrappings, which can cause suffocation.

**Read and Follow Warning Labels**
When buying toys for your child, please keep the following in mind:
- If exposed to fire, the toy could catch on fire quickly
- If there are large moveable parts to a toy, they must be designed to prevent fingers from being jammed or a child from getting stuck
- If a child can enter a toy, for example a tent, it should be properly built so the child can breathe comfortably
- It’s the law that your child wears a helmet when playing with toys such as bicycles, scooters, skateboards and in-line skates.

**Make a Small Parts Test Cylinder Yourself**
A “choke tester,” allows parents to test the safety of small toys, toy parts or other small objects. If an object fits entirely inside a choke tester, then it’s a choking hazard to your child under three years of age.

Visit [ehow.com](http://ehow.com) and search “DIY choke tester” for step-by-step instructions on how to build your own choke tester from scratch.