



Toy Safety

Toy manufacturers, retailers and importers must make sure that they manufacture, import, advertise or sell toys that meet the safety standards set by Health Canada. Sometimes unsafe toys do make their way onto store shelves and into homes. You may also have older toys that are no longer safe, or the way the toys are being used may expose children to hazards. Here are some tips to help you choose and use toys safely.

When Buying Toys



- Purchase age appropriate toys. Toys for older children may contain small parts or present other hazards that make them unsafe for younger children.
- Check toys often for hazards like loose parts, broken pieces or sharp edges, and repair or discard any weak or damaged toys.
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- Remove mobiles and toy bars from cribs as soon as a baby begins to push up on hands and knees.

• Read and follow age labels, warnings, safety messages and assembly instructions that come with the toy.

- Look for sturdy, well-made toys.
- Look for toys that come with contact information for the manufacturer or importer.

After Buying Toys

- Always supervise children and teach them how to use toys safely.
- Promptly remove and discard all toy packaging like plastic bags, plastic wrap, foam, staples and ties. Also remove and discard any temporary plastic film used to protect toy mirrors from scratching during shipping. A child can suffocate or choke on these items.
- Keep all toys, especially plush and soft toys, away from heat sources like stoves, fireplaces and heaters. The toys could catch fire, causing injury or property damage.

Choking Hazards

Young children, especially those under three years, frequently put objects in their mouth. Small toys, small balls or small loose or broken toy parts are choking hazards. Keep them out of reach.

- Know how your child plays. Small toys can be dangerous for older children if they still tend to put non-food items in their mouths.
- Check squeeze toys to make sure that small squeakers or reeds are not removable.



- Check toy cars, trucks and other vehicles to make sure that wheels, tires or other small parts are not loose or removable.

Recalls

To check for consumer product recalls, go to: www.healthycanadians.gc.ca

Incident Reporting

To submit a health and safety complaint or report a problem about a consumer product, go to: www.healthcanada.gc.ca/reportaproduct



- Check stuffed and plush toys to make sure that the eyes, nose and other small items are firmly attached and cannot be pulled off.
- Check that infant toys like rattles and teething rings have handles or parts that are large enough so that they will not get stuck in an infant's throat and block their airway.

Second Hand Toys

All too often products sold at garage sales do not meet current safety requirements. Use caution when shopping at garage sales or second-hand value shops and don't buy visibly damaged products. Remember:

- Children's jewellery may contain lead or cadmium. If you don't know what's in it, don't buy it.
- Baby walkers and yo-yo balls (soft plastic toys with highly stretchable plastic cords) are banned in Canada.
- If a hockey helmet or face protector meets the safety standards of Canadian Standards Association International, it will have a CSA sticker. If there's no sticker, don't buy it. Check the age of the gear as well: helmets and face protectors usually last about five years. Never buy a helmet or face protector that's been subjected to a major impact regardless of how old it is.
- Find out if a product has been recalled. Contact the retailer, manufacturer or check Recalls and Safety Alerts. If you have purchased a prohibited product or one that has been the subject of a recall, destroy the item to prevent its future use and dispose of it in accordance with municipal guidelines.

Other Hazards

- Avoid toys with cords that are long enough to wrap around a child's neck, especially stretchy or sticky cords. The cords could strangle a child.
- Check that the toy does not have sharp points or edges. These could cut a child.

For more information on children's safety, visit: <http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/kids-enfants/toy-jouet/index-eng.php>

Toy Storage

- Store toys and games for older children separate from those for younger children.
- Children should not have access to airtight storage bins, trunks or boxes. If a child climbs into one, they could suffocate.
- Use a toy box without a lid, or one with a lightweight lid that will not fall on a child.
- If the toy box has a lid, remove it or check to ensure:
 - the box has air holes for breathing, in case a child climbs inside;
 - the lid has a hinge that will hold it open in any position and that will stay open even if a child pushes down on it; and
 - there is no latch or other device that could lock the lid and trap a child inside.



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