

Watch Out For Certain Hazards in Toys and Children's Jewelry



Toys and jewelry can be dangerous if they contain hazards such as lead paint, small pieces or sharp edges. Lead is a toxic metal known to cause learning and behavior problems in young children. In recent years, millions of toys have been recalled in the United States because they posed lead or injury hazards. You can find a complete list of recalled toys by visiting

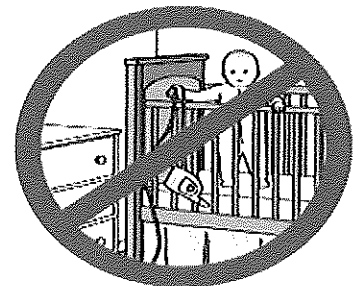
the [U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission \(www.cpsc.gov\)](http://www.cpsc.gov).

AVOID CHOKING AND SUFFOCATION HAZARDS

Choking and suffocation account for many toy-related injuries and deaths. Avoid toys that may interfere with a child's ability to breathe.

Protect your child:

- o Avoid toys with parts small enough for a child to swallow or choke on.
- o Toys with cords or strings can form a loop and become tangled around a young child's neck. Never allow young children to play with toys that have cords, strings, elastics, beads or straps that can fit around their necks.
- o Remove all crib toys and monitors strung across a crib or playpen area that can entangle your baby as soon as he or she is starting to stand.
- o Children can choke or suffocate on un-inflated or broken balloons. Supervise children when playing with balloons and keep un-inflated balloons out of reach. Throw out broken balloons at once.
- o Throw out plastic wrappings, plastic bags or other toy packaging to prevent suffocation hazards.



PREVENT POISONINGS AND INTERNAL INJURY HAZARDS

Swallowing small toys or toy parts can lead to serious internal injuries or even death.

Avoid toys with dangerous chemicals, button batteries and magnetic parts.

Protect your child:

- Avoid toys that contain lead or cadmium. You can find toys known to contain lead or cadmium by visiting the [U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission](#) website.
- Buy non-toxic art supplies intended for use by children.
- Do not buy building or play sets with small magnets for young children. Read the label to determine whether a toy contains magnets.
- Do not buy toys containing small, button batteries. Choose toys that have sealed battery compartments or require a screwdriver to open.



KEEP CHILDREN SAFE

- Electrical or mechanical toys that have chargers, adapters and batteries can burn or shock children. Adults should charge toys or replace batteries for children.
- Damaged or dangerous toys should be repaired or thrown away.
- Projectile toys such as air rockets, darts and sling shots are for older children. Improper use of these toys can result in serious eye injuries.
- Many children are injured each year while playing with ride-on toys such as scooters, skateboards and bicycles. Remember to buy safety equipment such as properly fitted helmets and knee pads when you buy a ride-on toy. Children under 14 years of age must wear an approved helmet when riding a bicycle in



New York City. For more information on the types of helmets that should be worn for different activities, see the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's brochure: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/349.pdf>

GET INFORMATION ON TOY SAFETY

- Read recall notices and do not buy toys that have been recalled. Check old toys at home to make sure they are not on the recall lists. Visit the [NY State Lead Hazard Product Recalls Page](#) (<http://www.nyhealth.gov/environmental/lead/recalls/>) or the [U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission](#) website for more information.
- Check each toy label for recommended age level, which is based on safety concerns as well as ability. Keep toys appropriate for older children away from younger children.
- Buy toys with labels indicating the toys conform to ASTM standards such as "ASTM F963" for toy safety and "ASTM D-4236" for art supplies.
- Read and follow all safety instructions on the labels.
- Test children for lead poisoning at ages 1 and 2. Talk to your doctor about having older children tested if they have been exposed to lead.