

Consumer Affairs Victoria

Product Safety Factsheet

Toy safety checklist

October 2003

Good toys should be safe, durable and appropriate to a child's age. They can assist children to develop mentally and physically. Unsafe toys may cause severe injuries, so take care when buying toys and supervise children's play.

Need more information?

Call Consumer Affairs Victoria Helpline on 1300 55 81 81.

Quick Tip

Check toys regularly for loose or broken parts.

Quick Tip

If a toy or toy part can fit inside a 35mm film canister, it can choke a child under three years of age.

Take time to teach your child the correct use of a toy. Teach older children to keep their toys out of reach of younger children. Check toys regularly, and throw out damaged toys immediately, or put them away for repair. Dispose of packaging, such as plastic bags, to prevent risk of suffocation.

What toys to look for

- Toys suitable for your child's age. A toy labelled 'Not suitable for children aged under 3' means it is dangerous for that age group - it is not an indication of skill level or intelligence. Keep toys (and parts) designed for older children away from little ones.
- Washable and non-breakable toys for babies.
- Ventilation in masks, helmets, tents, toy boxes, or anything big enough for a child to crawl inside.
- Ride-on toys which are stable and appropriate to age or skill level.

What toys to avoid

- Toys with sharp edges, points or splinters.
- Baby toys with small ends which may reach well back into the baby's mouth.
- Baby toys with loose or small parts (that may cause choking, eg buttons, dolls' eyes, wheels, small blocks).
- Gaps, holes or moving parts which could trap or crush little fingers.
- Toys with long strings or ribbons which can strangle a baby. Keep them less than 30cm long.
- Suction darts in target gun sets which are small enough to fit inside a 35mm film canister. Small darts can choke children of all ages.
- Toy boxes with lids which are heavy or close completely (fingers/heads/necks could be trapped or crushed).
- Loud toys, which can be harmful to hearing - particularly toys held to the ears (eg walkie talkies and toy mobile phones).
- Soft toys with weak stitching (to prevent choking on filling materials).
- Toy guns that fire projectiles at high speed and guns capable of firing 'modified' missiles such as pens, pins or ball bearings.

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Further reading

Consumer Affairs Victoria has a range of Product Safety related factsheets:

- Baby walker safety
- Bunk bed safety
- Children and water - keeping them safe
- Choosing a cot - facts for consumers
- Curtain and blind cords
- Laser pointers
- Supplying safe cots - facts for traders
- Toughened glass
- Toy safety checklist
- Toys for children under three

More information

Information on product safety is available from:

**Consumer Affairs Victoria
Victorian Consumer &
Business Centre**

113 Exhibition Street
Melbourne 3000

Telephone: 1300 55 81 81

Website www.consumer.vic.gov.au



The information contained in this fact sheet is of a general nature only and should not be regarded as a substitute for a reference to the legislation or professional advice.
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