



PUBLIC WARNING



I, Nicole Rich, Director of Consumer Affairs Victoria, issue this public warning under section 228 of the *Australian Consumer Law and Fair Trading Act 2012* (Vic).

This public warning is made in respect of two variety discount retailers in Victoria:

- Panda Mart Trading Pty Ltd (ACN 678 461 222) trading as Panda Mart Cranbourne: 1290 Thompsons Road, Cranbourne VIC 3977, and
- Panda Mart Preston Pty Ltd (ACN 685 951 428) trading as Panda Mart Preston: 120 Chifley Drive, Preston VIC 3072.

Consumer Affairs Victoria inspectors have seized more than 1,000 products for sale at both Panda Mart stores that do not comply with mandatory information and safety standards.

Products seized also include items that do not comply with the permanent ban on the sale of combustible candle holders. A permanent ban is in place in Australia for candle holders and candle decorations that ignite and continue to burn for 5 or more seconds.

The list of non-compliant product lines identified at both Panda Mart stores can be found at Appendix A to this public warning.

This follows previous actions we have already undertaken, including:

- seizing and removing from sale thousands of goods being offered for sale by Panda Mart stores last year
- issuing a previous public warning in respect of Panda Mart Cranbourne in March 2025
- obtaining a Supreme Court injunction in December 2025 temporarily closing both stores to enable us to remove non-compliant products from sale, and
- the recent issuing of criminal charges against Panda Mart Cranbourne.

I have decided to issue this public warning because I am concerned consumers may not be aware these products pose serious safety risks.

I am also concerned to ensure the public is aware that products supplied at both Panda Mart stores may pose a greater risk to consumers given repeated product safety concerns.

Combustible candles pose serious fire, health and safety risks to consumers, including those around them. There is also a risk of choking, serious injury, or severe internal burn injuries if young children access and swallow button batteries. Portable pools can pose a drowning risk to young children.

We urge anyone who has bought a product from a Panda Mart store that is banned or does not meet safety or information standards to stop using the product immediately and keep it out of reach of children. Consumers are entitled to seek a refund for non-compliant products.

If you have any concerns in relation to Panda Mart, you are encouraged to contact Consumer Affairs Victoria on 1300 55 81 81 or via www.consumer.vic.gov.au/contact-us .

DATED **05 / 03 / 2026**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicole Rich', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

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Nicole Rich
Director, Consumer Affairs Victoria

APPENDIX A

List of Non-Complaint Product Lines

Banned combustible candles

- 9pk Floral Cupcake Candle 1 – A50021805
- 5pk Floral Cupcake Candle 1 – A50021804
- 9pk Floral Cupcake Candle 2 – A50021873
- Reindeer with ribbon candle – A50021850
- Christmas snowman candle – A50021851
- Romantic bouquet candle – A50021865
- Love bear candle – A50021882
- Bear with scarf candle – A50021883
- Floral cupcake plus bear candle – A50021872
- Holding a bouquet scented candle – A50021909
- Aromatic candle – A50021907

Non-compliant button battery products

- COB LED Key Keychain – 48039

Non-compliant aquatic toys, floatation aids and portable pools

- Aquatic toy – Beach ball 75cm - 31152
- Floatation aid – Pool noodle with hole – A18211002
- Floatation aid – Pool noodle without hole – A18211001
- Portable pool – Triple ring kiddie pool – 51033
- Portable pool – Splash and smile kiddie pool – 51024
- Portable pool – Safari pals kiddie pool – 51008
- Portable pool – Deep dive play pool – 51004
- Portable pool – Swim squad kiddie pool – 51128
- Portable pool – Beachtastic play pool set – 51224