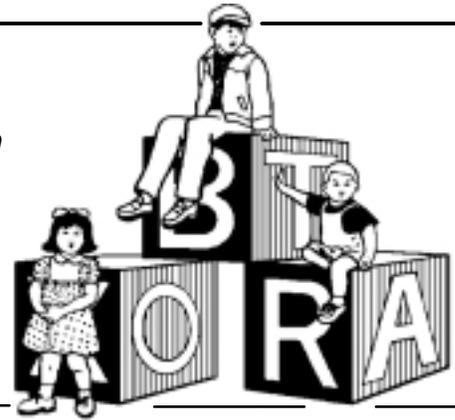


# Building Blocks to Safety

*A newsletter for prevention of childhood injuries.*



North Dakota Department of Health

Spring 2000

Division of Maternal and Child Health

## Hazardous Products in Thrift Stores

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), 69 percent of thrift stores sell products that present a risk of death or injury. From May through September 1999, CPSC visited 301 randomly selected thrift stores nationwide. Of those, 69 percent were selling at least one hazardous product. The top three products found were children's jackets and sweatshirts with drawstrings that present a strangulation hazard, hairdryers that do not protect against electrocution and cribs that do not meet current safety standards.

Each year, CPSC recalls 250 to 300 hazardous products. Many products are taken off retail shelves once they are recalled. However, products that are purchased before a recall is issued are a challenge to remove because these products end up being donated to or sold in secondhand stores.

CPSC found that thrift stores nationwide, including those run by national organizations and local and independent stores, sell the following hazardous products:

- ◆ 51 percent sell children's jackets and sweatshirts with drawstrings, a strangulation hazard.
- ◆ 20 percent sell hair dryers without protection against electrocutions.
- ◆ 12 percent sell cribs that do not meet current federal and voluntary safety standards, presenting risks including entrapment and strangulation.

- ◆ 10 percent sell recalled halogen torchiere floor lamps without wire or glass guards, presenting a fire hazard.
- ◆ 7 percent sell recalled play yards and playpens with protruding hardware or collapsible top rails, presenting a strangulation hazard.
- ◆ 4 percent sell recalled car seat carriers with handles that can unexpectedly disengage, causing the seat to flip forward and injure infants.
- ◆ 3 percent sell recalled toy basketball sets that present a strangulation hazard to children.
- ◆ About 1 percent sell other hazardous products including banned lawn darts, recalled cedar chests and recalled bean bag chairs, all of which present injury and death hazards to children.

The CPSC has prepared a Thrift Store Checklist for shoppers and thrift stores. The checklist includes information about how to contact CPSC to check on product recalls, bans and current safety standards. For a free copy of the checklist, visit the CPSC's website at [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) or send a postcard to Thrift Store Checklist, CPSC, Washington, DC 20207.

The CPSC kicks off a campaign each April called the Recall Round-Up. The main purpose of the campaign is to tell North Dakotans about recalled products. The North Dakota Department of Health participates in this event every year. The Recall Round-Up for year 2000 will be held April 18. Mark your calendars!

# Hidden Hazard in the Home

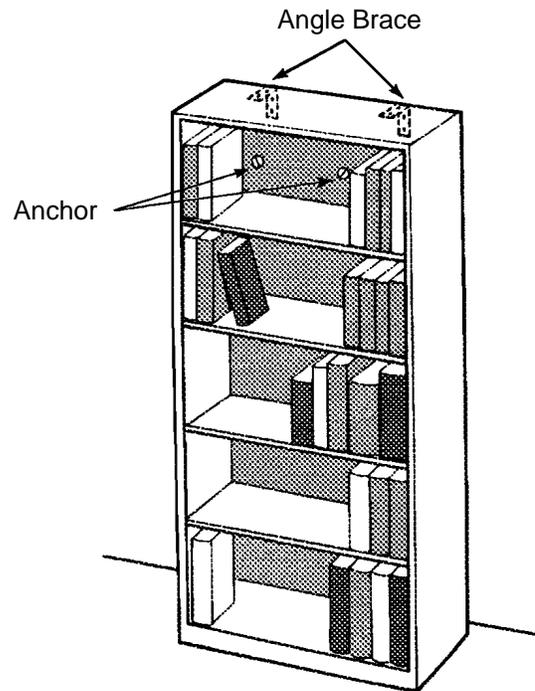
**Warning!** Young children can be killed when furniture tips over. According to the CPSC, several deaths and thousands of injuries have occurred to children when furniture tipped over. These injuries occurred when children tried to move furniture or open or close drawers or doors. Young children tried to pull themselves up or climb on chests of drawers, TV carts, stands, tables or bookcase shelves.

The most recent data available from CPSC is from the 1980s:

- ◆ Chest of drawers tip-overs were associated with an estimated 2,000 hospital emergency room-treated injuries each year from 1982 through 1986. Six children younger than 5 died when these chests tipped over on them.
- ◆ TV tip-overs were associated with an estimated 2,300 hospital emergency room-treated injuries per year from 1982 through 1986. Four children younger than 5 years of age died when TVs fell on them. CPSC estimates that 400 of the injuries occurred when the TV was located on a cart, stand or table.
- ◆ Bookcase tip-overs were associated with about 580 hospital emergency room-treated injuries annually

from 1982 through 1986. One child younger than 5 died when a bookcase tipped over.

CPSC recommends placing TVs on lower furniture as far back as possible. Use angle-braces or anchors to secure furniture to the wall.



## Child Resistant Multi-Purpose Lighters

Manufacturers of multi-purpose lighters now are required to childproof their products. New CPSC standards are intended to reduce the risk of injury and death associated with fires started by children younger than age 5 who play with multi-purpose lighters, micro-torches or gas matches.

Since 1988, CPSC has identified 237 fires reportedly started by children younger than age 5 playing with multi-purpose lighters. These fires resulted in 45 deaths, including 28 deaths of children younger than 5, and 103 injuries. Since these are only the numbers of incidents reported to CPSC, they are considered to be a conservative indication of the true extent of the problem.

The multi-purpose lighters must have the same level of child-resistance as required in the safety standard for cigarette lighters. The child-resistant mechanism must operate safely, function for the expected life of

the lighter and not be easy to deactivate. The child-resistant mechanism also must reset automatically after use.

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# CPSC, J.C. Penney Announce Recall of Boys Jackets

In cooperation with the CPSC, J.C. Penney Co. Inc. is recalling about 20,000 USA Olympic brand boys' jackets. The jackets have 7-inch drawstrings at the bottom. Children could be dragged and suffer injury or death if the drawstrings catch in a vehicle's door. Since 1991, CPSC knows of six deaths and eight injuries to children from coat drawstrings catching in bus or car doors. In 1996 CPSC issued guidelines for drawstrings on children's outerwear, which eventually became a voluntary standard. The standard limits the length of bottom drawstrings on children's upper outerwear to 3 inches. J.C. Penney has been adhering to the voluntary standard and has implemented procedures to prevent future errors.



The recalled USA Olympic brand jackets are reversible. One side has navy nylon fabric with grey and white stripes on the sleeves, two pockets, and the USA Olympic logo on the chest. The other side has grey polar fleece fabric, two pockets, and the USA Olympic logo on the back. The jackets are made in the United States in boys' sizes 2T through 5T and 4 through 7.

J.C. Penney stores nationwide sold the jackets from June 1999 to November 1999. Consumers should stop using the jackets immediately. Either remove the drawstrings or return the jacket to the nearest J.C. Penney store for a full refund. For more information, contact J.C. Penney Co. anytime toll-free at 888.333.6063.

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## Humidifiers Recalled

Sunbeam Corporation is recalling about 560,000 Sunbeam®, Hankscraft® and SunMark® humidifiers with water tanks that glow in the dark. These humidifiers can develop an electrical short, presenting a fire hazard. Sunbeam has received 87 complaints from consumers, including 42 reports of fire.

The Sunbeam brand has service numbers 644 through 646 written on the back of the humidifier's motor housing. The Hankscraft brand has service numbers 1260 through 1262 and the SunMark brand has service number 1260. Hankscraft and SunMark service numbers are written on the inside of the motor's

plastic housing. All recalled humidifiers have date codes stamped on the plugs beginning with 1001 through J226. The humidifiers are white with green-, blue- or rust-colored covers.

Discount department and drug stores sold these humidifiers nationwide from March 1995 through December 1997. Consumers should stop using these humidifiers immediately and call Sunbeam for instructions on returning the products for a free replacement. For more information, call Sunbeam Corporation at 800.440.4668.

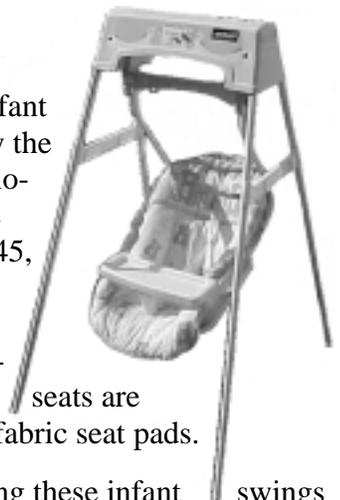
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## Cash Reward for Recalled Infant Swing

In cooperation with the CPSC, Century Products is offering a \$30 cash reward for the repair of each Lil'Napper infant swing. These swings were recalled in 1997 following reports of three deaths and one near strangulation from entanglement in the swings' shoulder harness straps. CPSC and Century have since become aware of a fourth death to an 8-month-old in Texas.

The swings have shoulder harness straps that are placed over each shoulder and buckled between the infant's legs. If the strap on these swings loosen or are unbuckled, an infant can become tangled in the straps and strangle.

The recalled Lil'Napper infant swings can be identified by the following model numbers located on the bottom of the swing's seat: 12-344, 12-345, 12-347, 12-475, or 12-476. Each swing has a plastic, two-position seat with a removable plastic tray. The seats are covered by either vinyl or fabric seat pads.



Caregivers should stop using these infant swings immediately. To receive the repair kit and the \$30 reward, call Century Products at 800.231.1448.

# Playskool Recalls Spillproof Cups

Playskool, a division of Hasbro, is voluntarily recalling about 273,000 spillproof cups. The flexible spout on the cup can tear between the slitted opening, which causes a small piece of material to come loose, posing a choking hazard to young children.

The cups include a twist-on lid that has a flexible, yellow spout. The lids come in various colors and have Playskool written on them. The bottom of the cups are printed with "MADE IN CHINA" and "HASBRO." The cups were sold under seven different models:

- ◆ 6 oz. and 8 oz. Spillproof Cups
- ◆ 6 oz. Spillproof Trainer Cup
- ◆ 7 oz. and 10 oz. Easy Grip Spillproof Cups
- ◆ 8 oz. Spillproof Trainer and 6 oz. Spillproof Cups imprinted with Teletubby character decals

The cups were sold in both single and double packs.

Major retail stores including Wal-Mart and Target sold these cups nationwide from January 1998 through July 1999. Parents and caregivers should stop young children from using these cups immediately and contact Playskool to get a free, redesigned lid. To request a replacement lid or for more information, call Playskool at 888.690.6166.



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