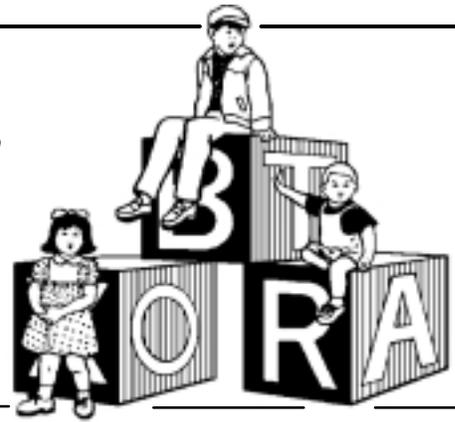


Building Blocks to Safety

A newsletter for prevention of childhood injuries.



North Dakota Department of Health

Spring 2001

Division of Maternal and Child Health

Scooter-Related Injuries Soar

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reports that emergency room-treated injuries related to popular lightweight scooters have increased 700 percent since May. CPSC data show that more than 4,000 scooter-related injuries were treated in hospital emergency rooms in August 2000 alone, and more than 9,400 emergency room-treated injuries have been reported for 2000 so far. Nearly 90 percent of the injuries are to children younger than 15.

The scooters, which first went on the market in the United States last year, are new versions of the foot-propelled scooters first popular in the 1950s. They are made of lightweight metal such as aluminum and have small low-friction wheels similar to those on in-line skates.

CPSC recommends that riders, especially children, wear proper safety gear – including helmets, wrist guards, and knee and elbow pads – to help prevent injuries. This is the same safety gear CPSC recommends for in-line skating. Wrist guards can reduce the risk of broken bones or dislocated joints, and knee-pads can help prevent knee injuries. CPSC estimates that more than 60 percent of injuries could have been prevented or reduced in severity if protective gear had been worn.

Most injuries resulted when riders fell from the scooters. Fractures and dislocations accounted for 29 percent of injuries. Most fractures and dislocations were to arms and hands.

Nightwear Safety



CPSC recommends parents choose sleepwear that will protect children from serious burn injuries. Loose-fitting T-shirts and other loose-fitting clothing made of cotton or cotton blends should not be used for children's sleepwear. These garments, which can catch fire easily and burn rapidly, are associated with nearly 200 emergency room-treated burn injuries to children each year. Children are most at risk from burn injuries that result from playing with fire (matches, lighters, candles, burners on stoves) just before bedtime and just after rising in the morning.

CPSC sets national safety standards for children's sleepwear flammability to protect children from serious burn injuries if they come in contact with a small flame. Under federal safety rules, garments sold as

children's sleepwear for sizes larger than 9 months must be either flame-resistant or snug-fitting.

Flame-resistant garments are made from inherently flame-resistant fabrics or are treated with flame retardants and do not continue to burn when removed from a small flame.

Snug-fitting sleepwear is made of stretchy cotton or cotton blends that fit closely against a child's body. Snug-fitting sleepwear is less likely to come into contact with a flame and does not ignite as easily or burn as rapidly because there is little air under the garment to feed a fire. Yellow hangtags and permanent labels on snug-fitting children's sleepwear made of cotton or cotton blends remind consumers of the importance of a snug fit.

Inflatable Playrings Recalled

Kinderkids voluntarily is recalling about 18,000 inflatable playrings. Babies sit inside the playring, which is used as an activity center and looks like a pool float. When a baby leans his face against the side of the playring, the soft surface covers the baby's nose and mouth, restricting airflow and posing the risk of suffocation.

The playring measures 40 inches in diameter, has a yellow, plastic, inflatable inner tube with a multicolored cloth covering. The cloth covering features eight activities for babies. A tag on the bottom of the cloth covering reads: "Warning!" and "Recommended for children 6 to 18 months." The packaging reads: "Discover Playring," "Made in China" and "Not to be used in water." They are sold with plastic foot pumps for inflating the playrings.



Wal-Mart stores and One Step Ahead, a mail-order company, sold the playrings from July 1998 through April 2000. Consumers should stop using the playrings immediately and contact Kinderkids at 888.4333.6251 for information about how to receive a refund.

Poppin' Pals Recalled



Playskool is recalling for replacement 420,000 Busy Poppin' Pals toys. Small springs inside the toy can break loose, posing a choking and laceration hazard to young children. Busy Poppin' Pals is a 13-inch long, white plastic toy with blue, yellow and red buttons, levers and knobs of various shapes that, when activated, make animal characters pop up from under the toy's base. The animals are hidden under blue, yellow or red lids that have the numbers one through five on top. The pop-up animals include a giraffe, elephant, panda bear, lion and monkey. The model number 5415 is imprinted on the bottom of the toy.

Mass merchandise and toy stores, including Toys "R" Us, sold these toys nationwide. The toys were sold from January 1996 through August 2000. Consumers should take these toys away from young children immediately and contact Playskool at 877.518.9743.



Mountain Bikes Recalled

Dynacraft Industries is recalling about 25,000 mountain bikes. Because some of the bikes were not welded properly, the front suspension forks can break apart during use, resulting in serious injury to riders.

The recall involves 26-inch Vertical XL2 and 24-inch and 26-inch Magna Electroshock mountain bikes. Target Stores nationwide sold the Vertical XL2 mountain bikes from August 1999 through February 2000 and the Magna Electroshock from August 1999 through August 2000.

Consumers should stop riding these bikes immediately and take them to the Target Store where purchased to receive their choice of a free replacement fork or free replacement bicycle of equal value. For more information or to receive a free replacement fork by mail, call Dynacraft Industries Inc. at 800.551.0032.

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This newsletter can be accessed at
www.health.state.nd.us/ndhd/pubs/index.htm#Building Blocks



Injuries Are Not Accidents

Century Infant Car Seats Recalled

Century Products is recalling about four million infant car seats/carriers. When the seat is used as an infant carrier, the handle can break. An infant inside the carrier can fall to the ground and suffer serious injuries. Century has received more than 2,700 reports of handle-related problems including handles breaking, cracking or possibly not properly locking when the seat is used as a carrier.

The recall is related only to the handle on the car seat and does not affect the performance of the car seat in a vehicle. The recall involves all Century rear-facing infant car seats/carriers with one-piece handles manufactured from January 1991 through July 1997.

The label showing date of manufacture – written as month, day, year (010191 through 073197) – can be found on the side of the seat. The recalled car seats/carriers have molded, one-piece, one-color plastic handles colored white, gray or tan.

Century will provide consumers free, easy-to-install replacement handles. Consumers should not carry the seats by the handles until they have been replaced; however, consumers may continue to use the products as car seats.

To receive a free replacement handle, call Century toll-free at 800.865.1419.

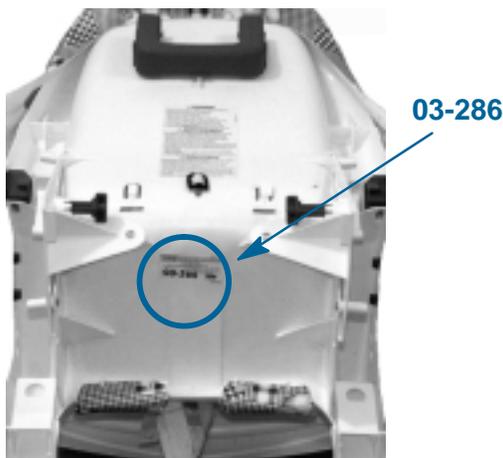
Cosco Highchairs Recalled

Cosco is recalling about one million Options 5 High Chairs. The highchairs are adjustable and have both recline and upright positions. In the recline position, the seats can separate from the frame and fall to the ground. In the upright position, the seats can slip from their set height position to the lowest position or can fall to the ground. Additionally, some seats were sold with metal restraint anchors that can slip through the backs of the seats, allowing children to fall to the ground.

The recalled Cosco Options 5 High Chairs have five options for use: highchair, infant feeding, youth chair, play chair and booster seat. The word “Cosco” is printed on the chair’s leg support bar, on the tray and on a sticker on the bottom of the seat. The recalled chair can be identified by the model number 03-286 and manufacture date, located on the bottom of the seat.

The Options 5 High Chairs subject to this recall were manufactured from Dec. 1, 1997, through Aug. 11, 2000 and were sold at mass merchandise, juvenile products and major discount department stores nationwide.

Consumers should stop using these highchairs immediately and order free repair kits from Cosco by calling 800.221.6736.



Recall to Repair Window Blinds

The CPSC and the Window Covering Safety Council announce a recall to repair horizontal window blinds to prevent the risk of strangulation to young children. The recall involves millions of window blinds with pull cords and inner cords that can form loops and cause strangulation. About 85 million window blinds are sold each year.

Since 1991, CPSC has received reports of 130 strangulations involving cords on window blinds. Of those, 114 strangulations involved the outer pull cords and 16 involved the inner cords that hold the blind slats.

Last year CPSC began a new investigation of window-blind deaths. In an extensive review of incidents, CPSC found that children also could become entangled in the inner cords that are used to raise the slats of blinds. These entrapments occur when a young child pulls on an inner cord and it forms a loop in which the child can

hang. All of these deaths involved children in cribs placed next to windows. In most cases, the outer pull cords were placed out of reach, but the children strangled when they pulled on the inner cords of the blinds. The strangulation victims ranged in age from 9 months to 17 months.

Consumers who have window blinds with cords in their homes should call the Window Covering Safety Council toll-free at 800.506.4636 to receive a free repair kit for each set of blinds in the home. You also can visit the Council's website at www.windowcoverings.org for more information about checking your window covering.

As a result of the new CPSC investigation, the industry has further redesigned window blinds. Newly manufactured blinds have attachments on the pull cords so that the inner cords can't form loops if pulled by young children.

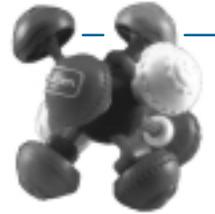
Playskool Klackeroos Recalled

Playskool is recalling for replacement about 550,000 Klackeroo toys. The toy's brightly colored end knobs can detach and allow small, geometric-shaped pieces to come loose, posing a choking hazard to young children.

Playskool's Klackeroo is a brightly colored toy with orange plastic rods and small geometric shapes that move through a purple center ball. Solid-colored knobs imprinted with animal faces or the sun and moon cap both ends of each orange rod. When shaken, the rods move through the ball and the geometric shapes slide along each rod, making a "clacking" sound. The knobs

are green, yellow, blue and red. The Playskool logo is imprinted on one end knob and "Made in China" is imprinted on the center ball. Toy and mass merchandise stores, including Toys "R" Us and Wal-Mart, sold these toys from October 1997 through September 2000.

Consumers should take the toys away from children immediately and contact Playskool at 888.671.9764. Recalled products will be replaced with a redesigned Klackeroo toy that will feature a red center ball with no sliding geometric shapes.



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