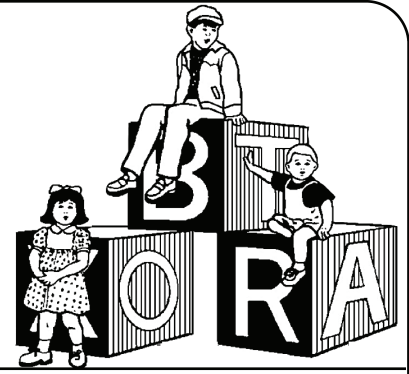


# Building Blocks to Safety

A newsletter for prevention of childhood injuries



North Dakota Department of Health Spring 2007 Division of Injury Prevention and Control

## Strangulation Risk to Children

From 1991 through 2004, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) received reports of about 200 strangulation deaths involving cords and chains on window coverings. Strangulations can occur when young children become entangled in the inner or outer cord on the window covering. Most strangulation deaths involved the outer pull cords. At least 20 of these deaths involved the inner cords that run through horizontal blinds.

Entanglement and strangulation from older window covering cords are a hidden hazard. It is critical that parents be aware of this and replace or repair window coverings purchased before 2001.

Outer pull cord deaths typically involve children ranging in age from 7 months to 6 years. Inner cord deaths typically involve children ranging in age from 9 months to 20 months who are placed in cribs or playpens located within reach of window coverings. In all cases, the children became inadvertently entangled and died from strangulation.

Consumers can take the following steps to help prevent strangulation from window coverings:

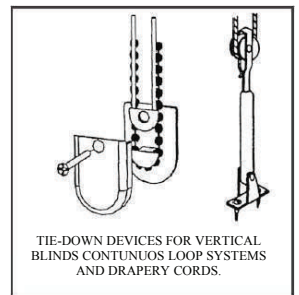
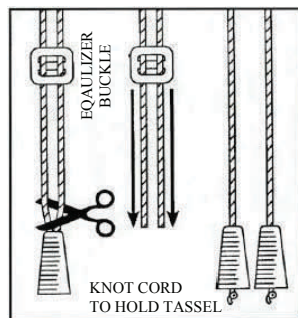
- Move all cribs, beds, furniture and toys away from windows and window cords, preferably to another wall.
- Keep all window cords out of the reach of children. Make sure that tasseled pull cords are

short, and that continuous-loop cords are permanently anchored to the floor or wall.

- To prevent inner cord hazards, lock cords into position when lowering horizontal coverings or shades.
- Repair window coverings, corded shades and draperies manufactured before 2001 with retrofit cord repair devices, or replace them with today's safer products.
- Consider installing cordless window coverings in children's bedrooms and play areas.

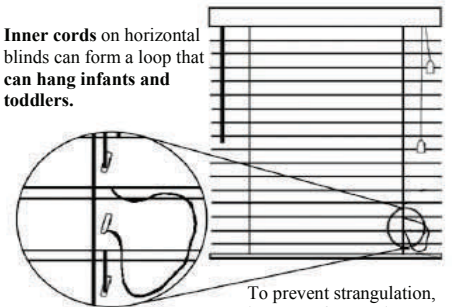
Newer window coverings and repaired, older window coverings reduce the risk of strangulation, but they have not fully eliminated the hazard. Long, dangling window cords and chains still pose a strangulation hazard, because young children can wrap the cord

around their neck. In addition, consumers should never tie window blind cords or chains together because the knot creates a new loop, in which a young child could become entangled.



### Important Safety Recall!

Inner cords on horizontal blinds can form a loop that can hang infants and toddlers.



To prevent strangulation, be sure safety cord stops are installed on blinds.

**Remember! Keep Cribs away from windows!**

For more information contact:  
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)  
Washington, D.C. 20207  
Toll-Free Hotline: (800) 638-2772  
Website: [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)  
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

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## Strangulation Risk to Children (continued)

Consumers possessing window coverings purchased before 2001 can obtain a free repair kit from the Window Covering Safety Council's website at [www.windowcoverings.org](http://www.windowcoverings.org) or by calling 800.506.4636. Individuals also can visit [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) to learn more about window covering safety.

## Toy Keys a Choking Hazard

CPSC and RC2 Brands Inc. are recalling 275,000 toy keys. The colored top portion of the keys can crack, resulting in the release of small parts, which poses a choking hazard to young children.



The First Years and John Deere "Real Keys" are toy keys with three colored keys attached to a blue, red or green remote control with electronic features. Various colored buttons on the remote activate sounds. Only toy keys with the letter "F" in the date code stamp located on the back of the remote are included in the recall.

Department stores and independent toy stores nationwide sold the toy keys from August 2005 through October 2006. Consumers should stop using the toy immediately and contact RC2 at 800.704.8697 for a free replacement toy.

## Helicopter Toys Recalled

The CPSC and Spin Master Toys are recalling about 46,000 Helix Remote Control Micro Helicopter toys. The power supply controller can overheat, posing a burn hazard to consumers.



The recalled remote control toy helicopters are lightweight, made of plastic and measure 7 inches from end to end. The helicopter comes with a control unit and a charger, and rechargeable batteries are

pre-installed in the fuselage. The recall involves toys with one of the following date codes: 06XXXXHM2, 06XXXXHM8, 06XXXXHM186. The date codes are located on a sticker on the bottom of the helicopter's body.

The helicopter was sold nationwide from July 2006 through November 2006. Consumers should stop using this product and contact Spin Master at 800.622.8339 to receive a free replacement product.

## Lemonade Jars Recalled

Lifetime Brands Inc. and CPSC are recalling about 7,000 Gemco Lemonade Jars. The metal spigot contains lead and is in direct contact with the contents of the lemonade jar. Lead from the spigot can get into the lemonade and other beverages. Long-term exposure to lead in children may be associated with behavioral problems, learning disabilities, hearing problems and growth retardation.



The Lemonade Jar is a six-sided glass jar with a round glass lid and metal spigot at the bottom of the jar. The jar has a yellow and green label on the front that reads "Lemonade Jar" with a picture of two lemons.

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Visit the following websites for more information about product safety and injury prevention:

[www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)  
[www.ndhealth.gov](http://www.ndhealth.gov)

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## Lemonade Jars Recalled (continued)

Retailers nationwide sold the jars from April 2004 through November 2006. Consumers should stop using the lemonade jars immediately and return the spigot pieces to Lifetime Brands Inc. for a full refund. Consumers should wash their hands after handling the spigot. For additional information, consumers can contact Lifetime Brands Inc. at 888.561.2269.

## Gund Activity Toy Recalled



Gund and CPSC are recalling 19,000 Baby Gund Woodles activity toys. The wooden rings on the stuffed toy can break, posing a small-parts choking hazard to young children.

The product is a baby activity toy available in various animal shapes. It consists of a soft, stuffed body with a rattle component inside the body and two smooth wooden rings attached to loops at the end of each arm. The toy is available in four different styles:

<u>Style</u>	<u>Style number</u>
Rumba Lion	58553
Gazoo Giraffe	58554
Wango Horse	58555
Tippy Cow	58556

Woodles and the style number are located on the sewn-in label.

Independent specialty toy stores nationwide sold the toys from June 2005 through April 2006. Consumers should stop using these toys and contact Gund at 800.448.4863 for a free replacement product.

## Easy-Bake Ovens Recalled

CPSC and Easy-Bake, a division of Hasbro Inc., are recalling 100,000 Easy-Bake Ovens. Young children can insert their hands into the oven's opening and get their hands or fingers caught, posing an entrapment and burn hazard. Easy-Bake has received 29 reports of children getting their hands or fingers caught in the oven's opening.

The oven is a purple and pink plastic oven that resembles a kitchen range with four burners on top and a front-loading oven. "Easy-Bake" is printed on the front of the oven. Model number 65805 and "Hasbro" are stamped into the plastic on the back of the oven.

Toys R Us, Wal-Mart, Target, KB Toys and other retailers nationwide sold ovens from May 2006 through February 2007. Consumers should contact Easy-Bake to receive a free retrofit kit with consumer warning. Caregivers should keep the Easy-Bake Oven away from children younger than 8. For additional information, contact Easy-Bake at 800.601.8418.

## Graco Highchairs Recalled

CPSC and Graco Children's Products are recalling 100,000 Graco Contempo Highchairs. The highchair can collapse if it is not fully opened and locked into place from the storage position prior to use. If the highchair collapses, a child occupying the highchair can be injured.

The Contemp highchairs have an "A" frame design. The following model numbers are included in the recall: 3800COU, 3800MNS, 3800DRB, 3800FMT, 3800GGG, 3800GRM, 3800HEM, 3800JEN, 3800LEG, 3800MNS, 3800OWD, 3800SND, 3800TFE, 3800RIT, 3803HRL, 3804CNR, 3805BDA, 3810PEW, 3810PST and 8311PST. The highchairs were manufactured from October 2005 through November 2006. The model number and manufacturer date are printed underneath the snack tray of these highchairs.



Babies R Us, Toys R Us, Target, Target.com, Wal-Mart, Wal-Mart.com, Burlington Coat Factory, Shopko, AAFES, USA Baby and various specialty retailers nationwide sold the highchair from December 2005 through December 2006. Consumers should contact the firm to obtain instructions on how to receive a free repair kit.

Consumer can continue to use the highchair until the repair kit is received but must make sure it is fully opened first. Consumers should open the highchair until they hear a "click," which indicates the hub is locked into place. For more information, contact Graco at 877.445.1312.



# Polly Pockets Recalled

The CPSC and Mattel are recalling 2.4 million Polly Pocket play sets. Tiny magnets inside the dolls and accessories can fall out undetected by parents and caregivers. The magnets can be swallowed, aspirated (inhaled) by young children or placed by children in their noses or ears. When more than one magnet is swallowed, the magnets can attract each other and cause intestinal perforation, infection or blockage, which can be fatal. Aspiration to the lungs requires immediate surgery. Magnets placed in the nose or ears can cause swelling and be difficult to remove.



CPSC is aware of 170 reports of the small magnets coming out of these recalled toys. There were three reports of serious injuries to children who swallowed more than one magnet. All three suffered intestinal perforations that required surgery.

The recalled Polly Pocket play sets contain plastic dolls and accessories that have small magnets. The magnets measure 1/8-inch in diameter and are imbedded in the hands and feet of some dolls and in the plastic clothing,

hairpieces and other accessories to help the pieces attach to the doll or to the doll's house. The model number is printed on the bottom of the largest pieces on some of the play sets. Contact Mattel if you cannot find a model number. Polly Pocket magnetic play sets currently on store shelves are not included in this recall.

Discount department stores and toy stores sold this product from May 2003 to September 2006. Consumers should remove this toy immediately and contact Mattel at 888.597.6597 for a replacement toy. Play sets included in this recall are the following:

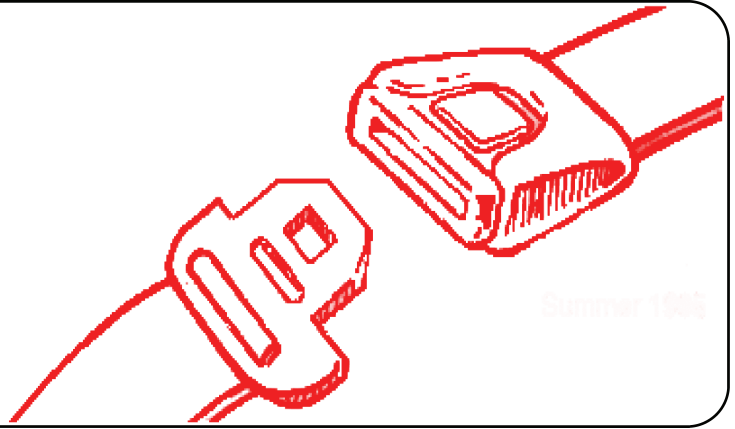
<b>Polly Pocket Magnetic Play Sets</b>	<b>Item Number</b>
Polly Pocket!™ Polly Place™ Hangin' Out House™	B2632
Polly Pocket!™ Polly Place™ Treetop Clubhouse	B3158
Polly Pocket!™ Spa Day™	B3201
Polly Totally!™ Polly Place™ Totally Tiki Diner™	B7118
Polly Pocket!™ Quik-Clik™ Boutique	G8605
Polly Pocket!™ Quik-Clik™ City Pretty Playset	H1537
Polly Pocket!™ Quik-Clik™ Sporty Style Playset	H1538
Polly Pocket!™ Totally Zen™ Playset	H321

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Division of Injury Prevention and Control  
North Dakota Department of Health  
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 301  
Bismarck, N.D. 58505-0200  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



# The Buckle Update



## Behind the Consumer Report Infant Car Seat Tests

The February 2007 edition of Consumer Reports drew considerable media attention when it reported that 10 of the 12 infant seats they tested failed disastrously. The article also reported evidence of problems with LATCH, the federally mandated attachment system for car seats, saying that most car seats performed worse with LATCH than with vehicle seat belts.

According to the report, Consumer Union (CU) tested the car seats using more stringent tests than the 30 mph front-impact test currently required by the federal government. The CU tests included a 35 mph front-impact test and a 38 mph side-impact test.

Immediately following the release of the report, child passenger safety experts and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) questioned the validity of the side-impact crash tests performed by CU. When NHTSA reviewed the testing procedures used by CU, it found the side-impact tests actually were conducted under conditions that would represent being struck at 70 mph. NHTSA conducted its own tests in conditions representing 38.5 mph and found the seats performed as they should.

On Jan. 18, 2007, Consumer Union retracted its report pending further tests of the performance of infant seats in side-impact collisions, citing new information from NHTSA concerning how their tests were conducted. Consumer Union plans to publish a new report after the new tests are completed.

## But Mom, I Can Do It Myself ...

Almost every parent has heard it as his or her child starts to establish independence. Sometimes it refers to getting dressed, packing school lunches or buckling up. While it's important to allow children to learn to do things by themselves, when it comes to buckling up, double-checking is critical to ensure the seat belt is worn correctly.

Whether the child is sitting on a booster seat or the vehicle seat, the seat belt must fit properly. The lap belt must be worn low on the hips and the shoulder belt must cross the middle of the shoulder. This can be tricky when children are wearing heavy coats. Parents can buckle the child in by pulling the coat up so the lap belt goes under the coat and onto the child's hips, opening the jacket, pulling it to the sides or removing the coat. The key to correct use is making sure the belt is positioned correctly and that it is snug to the child's body, not to the coat.

## Who Wants To Be a Child Passenger Safety Technician?

As a health and safety professional, have you ever been asked a car seat question you were unable to answer? As a parent, have you been frustrated in your attempt to select the best car seat for your child and then to install it safely in your vehicle? As a nurse, emergency medical technician, law enforcement official, or child-care provider, have you observed children in car seats where the child just didn't look safe, but you didn't know what to do to help?

Continued on next page

## Who Wants To Be a Child Passenger Safety Technician? (continued)

If your answer to any of these questions is yes, you may be interested in becoming a certified child passenger safety technician. The North Dakota Department of Health is sponsoring three courses that will provide participants with the technical skills to identify and correct misuse of car seats. Following successful completion of the 32-hour course, participants will be nationally certified child passenger safety technicians, enabling them to be child passenger safety resources for their communities.

The courses will be held May 14 through 17, 2007, in Bismarck; June 18 through 21, 2007, in Fargo; and August 13 through 16, 2007, in Minot. For more information, contact Dawn Mayer at 800.472.2286 or visit the North Dakota Department of Health website at [www.ndhealth.gov/injury/trainings.htm](http://www.ndhealth.gov/injury/trainings.htm).

## Britax Recalls Boulevard Child Restraint

Britax Child Safety Inc. recently announced a voluntary recall of its Boulevard child restraints, model #E9L57, that fail to comply with safety regulations. The recall includes units of this model produced from March 1, 2006, through August 1, 2006.



During random product evaluation, Britax determined that, under certain circumstances, the top tether hook may open or break and release from the tether anchor. This situation has been demonstrated only with the child restraint installed forward facing with tether attached using a test dummy that represents a child weighing more than 50 pounds. If the top tether were to break in a crash, the child restraint could move from the upright position to the reclined position, increasing the risk of injury.

Consumers are advised to discontinue use of the top tether on the Boulevard child restraint once the child's weight exceeds 50 pounds. They should contact Britax at 800.683.2045 to obtain a revised label to place on the child restraint as a reminder of the limited use of the tether strap.

## Compass Infant Seat Recalled

Compass Baby is announcing a recall of 1,223 units of the Compass 1420 infant car seats with manufacture dates of May 7, 2006, to May 15, 2006. Specific model numbers include 1420 ARD, 1420 FUO and 1420 MAR.



During its ongoing testing, Compass discovered a technical noncompliance issue with the crotch strap anchor located on the bottom of the seat. The metal slide used to anchor the crotch strap was installed incorrectly. In a crash, the anchor may become dislodged, allowing the child to move and increase the risk of serious injury.

Compass is providing a free repair kit and instructions for fixing the problem. Consumers with this model infant seat should contact Compass at 888.899.2229 or go to its website at [www.compassbaby.com](http://www.compassbaby.com)