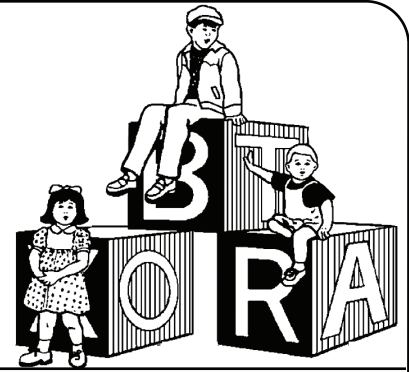


# Building Blocks to Safety

A newsletter for prevention of childhood injuries



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

## Hazards Related to Holiday Decorating

Holiday decorating often is depicted in movies by characters hanging countless strings of lights and suffering falls from ladders or rooftops for comic effect. Unfortunately, these types of incidents are grounded in reality and, unlike in the movies, they often are no laughing matter. In fact, about 12,500 people go to hospital emergency rooms for falls, cuts, shocks and burns related to holiday decorating each year according to U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) statistics.

Christmas trees are involved in about 300 fires annually. This results in an average of 20 deaths, 40 injuries and about \$8 million in property damage and loss. In addition, there are nearly 15,000 candle-related fires each year that result in 170 deaths and \$327 million in property loss. To help prevent these types of incidents, use the following safety tips when decorating.

### Trees and Decorations:

- When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant." Although this label does not mean the tree won't catch fire, it does indicate the tree is more resistant to burning.
- When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green and its needles are hard to pull from branches and do not break when bent between your fingers. The bottom of a fresh tree is sticky with resin, and when tapped on the ground the tree should not lose many needles.



- When setting up a tree at home, place it away from fireplaces and radiators. Because heated rooms dry out live trees rapidly, be sure to keep the stand filled with water. Place the tree out of the way of traffic, and do not block doorways.
- Use only noncombustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree. Choose tinsel or artificial icicles of plastic or nonleaded metals. Leaded materials are hazardous if swallowed by children.
- In homes with small children, take special care to avoid sharp or breakable decorations. Keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children who could swallow or inhale small pieces, and avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food that may tempt a child to eat them.
- To avoid eye and skin irritation, wear gloves when decorating with spun glass "angel hair."
- To avoid lung irritation, follow container directions carefully while decorating with artificial snow sprays.



### Lights:

- Indoors or outdoors, use only lights that have been tested for safety by a nationally-recognized testing laboratory, such as UL or ETL/ITSNA. Use only newer lights that have thicker wiring and are required to have safety fuses to prevent the wires from overheating.

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## Hazards Related to Holiday Decorating (continued)

- Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Throw out damaged sets.
- If using an extension cord, make sure it is rated for the intended use.
- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted.
- When using lights outdoors, check labels to be sure they have been certified for outdoor use and plug them into ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protected receptacles only.
- Turn off all holiday lights when you go to bed or leave the house. The lights could short out and start a fire.

### Candles:

- Keep burning candles within sight.
- Keep lighted candles away from items that can burn easily, such as trees, other evergreen, decorations, curtains and furniture.
- Always use nonflammable holders, and keep candles away from children and pets.
- Extinguish all candles before you go to bed or leave the house.

## Toy Garden Tools Recalled

The CPSC and Jo-Ann Stores Inc. are recalling 97,000 children's toy gardening tools. The surface paint on the handle of the toy gardening tools can contain excessive levels of lead paint, violating the federal lead paint standard.

This recall involves the Robbie Ducky children's leaf rake, hoe, broom and spade. "Robbie Ducky™ Garden Collection" is printed on a tag attached to the handle. The rake has a yellow handle with the head of a tortoise and green prongs. The hoe has an orange handle with a caterpillar and blue blade. The broom has a purple handle with a duck and an orange brush. The spade has a yellow handle with the head of a frog and a red blade. The tools measure between 27 and 29 inches long.

The toys were sold nationwide at Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores from January 2007 through September 2007. Consumers should stop using the toys and return them to any Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Store for a full refund. For more information contact Jo-Ann Stores toll-free at 888.739.4120.



## Kolcraft Play Yards Recalled

In cooperation with the CPSC, Kolcraft Enterprises Inc. is voluntarily recalling about 425,000 infant play yards following the death of a child. CPSC received a report of a 10-month old boy who strangled on the changing table's restraint strap that was hanging down into Kolcraft's "Sesame Beginnings" Travel Play Yard where the child was located.

Twelve different Kolcraft play yards are included in this recall. All of the play yards have raised changing tables with a restraint strap that forms a loop beneath the changing table, posing a strangulation hazard to a child in the play yard.

In addition to the strangulation hazard with the changing table restraint strap, one style of play yard also has a raised cradle that rocks back and forth. A child can roll and get trapped against the side of the cradle in the Contours 3-in-1 Play Yard. If that happens, a child can

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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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North Dakota Department of Health  
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept 301  
Bismarck, N.D. 58505-0200  
800.472.2286

Terry Dwelle, M.D., State Health Officer  
Mary Dasovick, Division of Injury Prevention & Control Director  
Dawn Mayer, Editor  
Carol Meidinger, Editor



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

## Kolcraft Play Yards Recalled (continued)

suffocate. Kolcraft has received 45 reports of children rolling to the side of the rocking cradle attachment.

The recalled play yards were sold in a variety of colors and patterns at retail stores nationwide from January 2001 through September 2007.

Consumers should stop using the changing tables and rocking cradle and contact the firm by calling 888.655.8484 for instructions on receiving a free non-looped replacement strap for the changing table and a free repair kit to secure the base of the cradle. The repair kit for the rocking cradle will be sent to consumers separately from the replacement strap. In addition, consumers should immediately cut off and remove the existing changing table restraint strap and always should remove the raised changing table and cradle or bassinet before placing a child in a play yard.

A free repair kit for the rocking cradle will be sent to consumers separate from the replacement strap. For additional information, call Kolcraft at 888.655.8484.

## Recalled Bumbo Baby Sitter

The CPSC and Bumbo International are voluntarily recalling about 1 million Bumbo Baby Sitter Seats. If the seat is placed on a table, countertop, chair or other elevated surface, young children can arch their backs, flip out of the Bumbo seat and fall onto the floor, posing a risk of serious head injury. CPSC has received 28 reports of young children falling out of the seat, including three skull fractures, which occurred when children fell out of chairs that had been placed on tables.



The seats were sold at Target, Wal-Mart, Sears, Toys R Us, Babies R Us, USA Babies and various other toy and children's stores nationwide and by various online sellers from August 2003 through October 2007.

Consumers should never use the infant seat on a table, countertop, chair or other elevated surface. Consumers should use the Bumbo seat at ground level, but should never leave a child unattended. Contact Bumbo at 877.932.8626 to obtain new warning label stickers and instructions free of charge.

## Fisher-Price's Laugh & Learn Recalled

The CPSC and Fisher-Price are voluntarily recalling 155,000 Laugh & Learn Learning Kitchen Toys.

Pieces of the faucet or the clock hands can detach, posing a choking hazard to young children. There have



been 48 reports of small parts separating from the toys, including two reports of children gagging on pieces, one report of a child who started choking on a piece and one report of a child who choked on a piece.

The recall involves a play kitchen learning toy with a pretend refrigerator, range and sink. The product's item number L5067 is stamped in several locations on the toy and printed on the product's packaging above the UPC.

The toy was sold at various retail and toy specialty stores nationwide from May 2007 through October 2007. Consumers should remove the recalled toys from children's reach and contact Fisher-Price at 888.812.7187 for a free repair kit.

## Go Diego Go Boat Toy Recalled

The CPSC and Fisher-Price are voluntarily recalling 38,000 Go Diego Go Animal Rescue Boats. Surface paints on the toys contain excessive levels of lead, which violates the federal standard prohibiting lead paint on children's toys.



The boat toys were sold at retail stores nationwide from June

2007 through October 2007. Consumers should remove the toys from children and contact Fisher-Price at 888.299.0579 to receive a free replacement toy.

## Aqua Dots Recalled

CPSC and Spin Master are recalling 4.2 million Aqua Dots. The coating on the beads that causes the beads to stick to each other when water is added contains a chemical that can turn toxic when swallowed. Children

Continued on next page

## Aqua Dots Recalled (continued)

who swallow the beads can become comatose, develop respiratory depression, or have seizures. CPSC has received two reports of children swallowing the beads. One child became dizzy and vomited several times before slipping into a coma for a period of time; the second child also vomited, slipped into a coma, and was hospitalized for five days.



Mass merchandisers nationwide sold the Aqua Dots from April 2007 through November 2007. Consumers should remove the Aqua Dots from children's reach and contact Spin Master at 800.622.8339 to return them for free replacement beads or a toy of equal value.

## “Cars” Backpacks Involved With Recall

The CPSC and Global Design Concepts Inc. are voluntarily recalling 110,000 magnetic game pieces sold with “Cars” themed backpacks. Small magnets inside the four game pieces that were sold with the backpack can fall out of their plastic enclosure. Magnets found by young children can be swallowed or breathed into their lungs. If more than one magnet is swallowed, the magnets can attract each other and cause intestinal perforation or blockage, which can be fatal.

The backpacks were sold at Target stores nationwide from February 2007 through September 2007. Consumers should take the recalled game pieces away from young children and contact the “Cars” backpack recall hotline at 877.848.4070 for instructions on returning the recalled game pieces for a free replacement “Cars” wallet or equivalent product.

## Recalled Simplicity and Graco Cribs

The CPSC and Simplicity Inc. have announced that a remedy is now available for parents and caregivers who were impacted by the September 2007 recall of about 1 million Simplicity and Graco logo cribs with older hardware. Simplicity will provide consumers with a repair kit that immobilizes the drop-side. The free repair kit will be sent to crib owners who have pre-registered or who register now on Simplicity's website at [www.simplicityforchildren.com](http://www.simplicityforchildren.com) or through their hotline at 888.593.9274.

The hazard with the recalled crib is that the drop-side can detach, which creates a dangerous gap and can lead to the entrapment and suffocation of infants. CPSC and Simplicity are aware of three deaths in Simplicity-manufactured cribs with older style hardware, as well as seven infant entrapments and 56 incidents with these cribs.

To determine if your crib is recalled, call Simplicity at 800.858.8323.

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STANDARD  
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PERMIT # 419

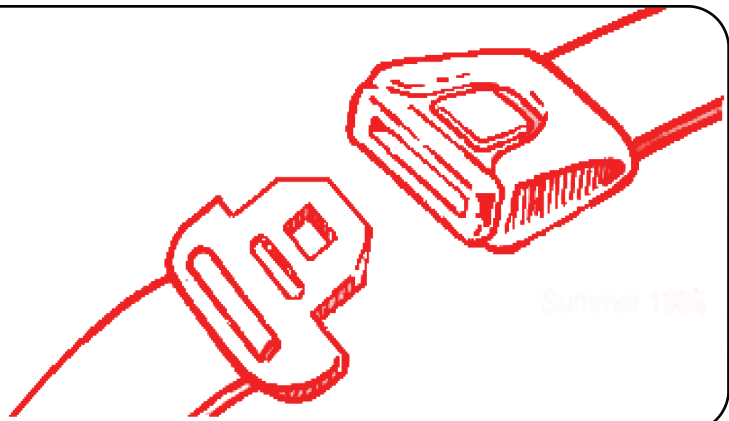
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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





# The Buckle Update



## Transporting Children with Special Health Care Needs

Some children require special consideration when selecting a restraint because of a medical condition or procedure. Some conditions are short-term, such as a broken leg. Others are chronic and have a long-term affect on a child's physical, developmental, behavioral or emotional health.

In some cases, a child with special health care needs may be able to ride in a conventional child restraint. In other instances, the child's medical condition may require use of a specialized or adaptive restraint.

Following are examples of conditions that may require use of a specialized restraint:



- Premature or low birth weight infants may require use of a car bed because of poor oxygen levels when placed in an upright car seat.

- Some orthopedic conditions require a cast that keeps a child from bending at the hip and maintaining a sitting position in a regular car seat. A special car seat with low sides may be used or the child may need to ride lying down with a special vest.



- Some children with neuromuscular disorders, such as cerebral palsy, have poor head and neck control and may benefit from an adaptive restraint.



The unique transportation needs of children with special health care needs often may be overlooked. Parents and health-care providers may not be aware of current recommendations or available products. Specialized restraints often are expensive and not readily accessible.

Regardless of whether a child's medical condition presents short - or long-term transportation challenges, a child should travel in a restraint that is appropriate for their size, age and medical condition.

For more information on transportation of children with special health care needs, contact the North Dakota Department of Health at 1.800.472.2286.

## Britax Recalls Marathon Child Restraint

Britax child Safety, Inc. is recalling the Marathon child restraint with model numbers E9L06, E9W09 and E906 manufactured between May 23, 2006, and July 29, 2006, with a top tether hook stamped with lot number KGR 01 A.

Under certain circumstances, if a child exceeds 50 pounds and the vehicle manufacturer allows use of the top tether above 50 pounds, the top tether hook could

Continued on next page

## Britax Recalls Marathon Child Restraint (continued)



open and release from the tether anchor in a crash. This would allow the child to move forward further than allowed under the federal safety standards.

Owners of the affected model should contact Britax at 1.800.683.2045 or [www.BritaxUSA.com](http://www.BritaxUSA.com) for a

free tether hook replacement. The top tether on the recalled seats should not be used with children who weigh over 50 pounds until the replacement tether hook has been installed.

## Britax Updates Instructions for Companion Infant Seat

Britax Child Safety, Inc. is offering an updated user guide and product labels for the Companion Infant Child Restraint to clarify adjustment of the buckle (crotch) strap position and maximum height for infant carrier use.



**Buckle Strap Positioning:** The Companion has two buckle strap positions. The inner position is for infants weighing less than 11 pounds and should be used until the child outgrows the car seat. The outer position may be used before 11 pounds if the child's growth and comfort necessitates the adjustment.

**Maximum Height for Use:** A child has exceeded the height requirement for the Companion when the top of the head is less than one inch from the top of the restraint or the child's height exceeds 30 inches.

Owners of the Companion child restraint should contact Britax at 1.888.427.4829 or visit [www.BritaxUSA.com](http://www.BritaxUSA.com) for the updated user guide and product labels.

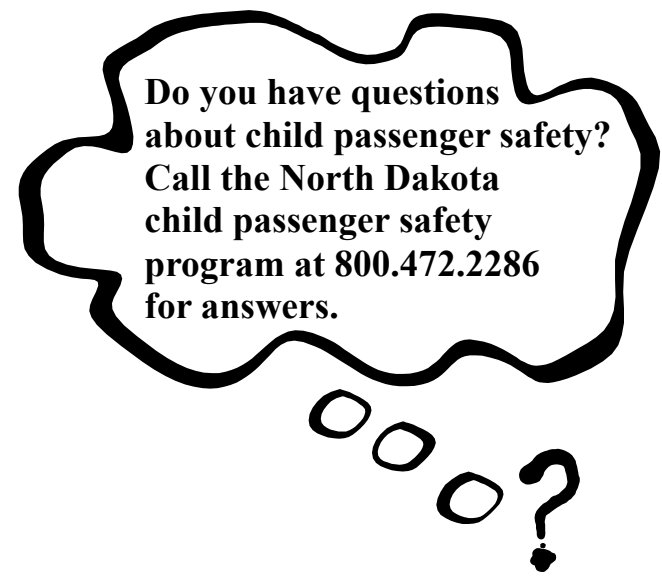
## Evenflo Triumph Recalled

Evenflo Company, Inc. has announced a voluntary recall of certain Triumph convertible child restraints made between September 6, 2001, and October 31, 2005. The recalled seats have model number that begin with "264," "359" or "389."



Portions of the cloth cover can be pulled back exposing the foam liner in an area where it can be reached by a child riding in the car seat. The child may tear off pieces from the foam liner and potentially choke on it.

Evenflo is offering a free upgrade kit that includes a protective sleeve to cover the foam liner. Owners of the recalled seat can obtain a kit by visiting [www.triumphcarseat.com](http://www.triumphcarseat.com) or calling Evenflo at 1.800.490.7591.



**Do you have questions about child passenger safety? Call the North Dakota child passenger safety program at 800.472.2286 for answers.**