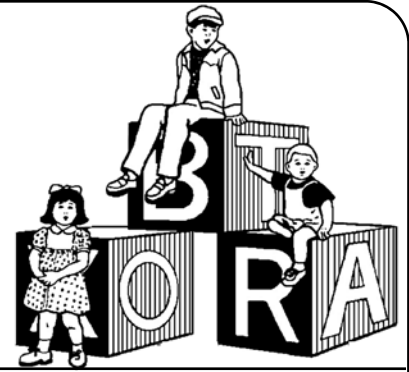


# Building Blocks to Safety

*A newsletter for prevention of childhood injuries*



North Dakota Department of Health Winter 2009 Division of Injury Prevention and Control

## Are Your Window Coverings Safe?

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has identified window coverings with cords as one of the top five hidden hazards in the home. About once a month, a child between the ages of 7 months and 10 years dies from window cord strangulation and another child suffers a near strangulation. In recent years, CPSC has recalled more than five million window coverings, including Roman shades, roller and roll-up blinds, and vertical and horizontal blinds.

Strangulation deaths and injuries can occur anywhere in the house where a window covering with a cord is installed. Children can wrap window covering cords around their necks or can pull cords that are not clearly visible but are accessible and become entangled in the loops. These incidents happen quickly and silently.



CPSC offers the following safety tips to prevent deaths and injuries associated with window covering cords:

- Examine all shades and blinds in the home. CPSC recommends the use of cordless window coverings in all homes where children live or visit. Make sure there are no accessible cords on the front, side or back of the product.
- Do not place cribs, beds and furniture close to the windows because children can climb on them and gain access to the cords.
- Make loose cords inaccessible.
- If the window shade has looped bead chains or nylon cords, install tension devices to keep the cords taut.

The North Dakota Department of Health has a limited number of window cord safety kits available. If you are interested in a free kit, please call 701.328.4536 or 800.472.2286 to order one.

## Enhanced Safety Protections

According to the CPSC, new federal safety rules that are in place for toys should give American consumers greater confidence when they go shopping in the future. Starting this year:

- Federal limits for lead in paint on children's toys dropped to 90 parts per million, which is among the lowest in the world.
- Toys for children 12 and younger now must

be tested and certified that they meet the new lead in paint limits.

- Children's toys cannot be made or sold with more than 300 parts per million of total lead.
- Children's toys cannot be made or sold with more than 0.1% of six prohibited phthalates.
- Most children's toys now fall under mandatory standards instead of voluntary ones.

Continued on next page

## The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the following firms are recalling the products in this newsletter.

### Enhanced Safety Protections (continued)

So far in calendar year 2009, CPSC has issued 38 toy recalls, which is down from 162 in 2008 and 148 in 2007. Toy recalls involving lead paint are also down. This year, there have been 14 recalls involving lead, down from 63 in 2007 and 85 in 2008. CPSC attributes this decline to increased enforcement at the ports, cooperation with other nations, consumer awareness and education, and compliance by the industry with new federal safety rules.

For 2008, the Commission has reports of 19 toy-related deaths and about 172,700 hospital emergency room-treated toy-related injuries to children younger than 15. Almost half of these injuries, about 82,300, were to children younger than 5. Most of the deaths were associated with drowning, motor vehicle involvement, or airway obstruction from a small toy or small part of a toy.

Consumers should take the following safety steps while shopping for children:

- Scooters and Other Riding Toys – Riding toys, skateboards and in-line skates go fast, and falls could be deadly. Helmets and safety gear should be worn at all times and be sized to fit.
- Small Balls and Other Toys with Small Parts – For children younger than 3, avoid toys with small parts that can cause choking.
- Balloons – Children can choke or suffocate on balloons that are not inflated or are broken. Keep balloons that are not inflated away from children younger than 8. Discard broken balloons at once.
- Magnets – For children younger than 6, avoid building or play sets with small magnets. If magnets or pieces with magnets are swallowed, serious injuries and/or death can occur.
- Keep toys appropriate for older children away from younger siblings.
- Charging batteries should be supervised by adults. Chargers and adapters can pose thermal burn hazards to young children. Pay attention to instructions and warnings on battery chargers. Some chargers lack any device to prevent overcharging.

## Halloween Flashlights Recalled

**Product:** 610,000 Halloween flashlights from Target

**Hazard:** The flashlights can overheat and melt, posing a burn hazard to consumers.

**Incidents/Injuries:** Target has received eight reports of flashlights overheating and melting, including one report of burns to the hand.

**Description:** The recall includes two types of flashlights: mini-flashlights and standard-size flashlights. The mini-flashlights have a key ring extending from the bottom and were sold in a pack of three. The standard-size flashlights are black with an orange top and were sold with six stencils, including images of a pumpkin, ghost, spider, cat, witch and skull.

**Remedy:** The flashlights were sold exclusively at Target stores nationwide from August 2009 through September 2009. Consumers should stop using the flashlights and return them to any Target store for a full refund.



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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This newsletter can be accessed at  
[www.ndhealth.gov/injury](http://www.ndhealth.gov/injury)



# Strollers Caused Amputations

**Product:** About 1 million Maclaren strollers.

**Hazard:** The stroller's hinge mechanism poses a fingertip amputation and laceration hazard when the consumer is unfolding/opening the stroller.

**Incidents:** The firm has received 15 reports of children placing their finger in the stroller's hinge mechanism, resulting in 12 reports of fingertip amputations in the United States.

**Description:** This recall involves all Maclaren single and double umbrella strollers. The word "Maclaren" is printed on the stroller. The affected models included Volo, Triumph, Quest Sport, Quest Mod, Techno XT, TechnoXLR, Twin Triumph, Twin Techno and Easy Traveller.

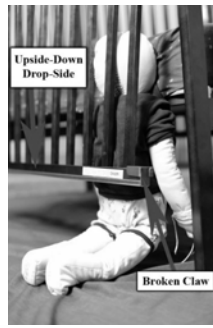
**Remedy:** The strollers were sold at Babies"R"Us, Target and other juvenile product and mass merchandise retailers nationwide from 1999 through November 2009. Consumers should stop using these recalled strollers and contact Maclaren at 877.688.2326 to receive a free repair kit.

## 2.1 Million Drop-Sided Cribs Recalled

**Product:** More than 2.1 million Stork Craft Manufacturing drop-sided cribs, including about 147,000 with the Fisher-Price logo.

**Hazard:** The crib's drop-side plastic hardware can break or deform or parts can become missing. In addition, the drop-side can be installed upside-down, which can result in broken or disengaged plastic parts. All of these problems can cause the drop-side to detach in one or more corners. When the drop-side detaches, it creates space between the drop-side and the crib mattress. Bodies of infants and toddlers can become entrapped in the space, which can lead to suffocation.

**Incidents:** The CPSC is aware of 110 incidents of drop-side detachment; 67 incidents occurred in the United States and 43 in Canada. The incidents include 15 entrapments, 12 in the U.S. and three in Canada. Four of the entrapments resulted in suffocation: a 7-month-old in Gouverneur, N.Y.; a 7-month-old in New Iberia, La.; a 6-month-old in Summersville, W.Va.; and a 9-month-old in Bronx, N.Y. Included in these incidents are 20 falls from cribs, 12 in the U.S. and



eight in Canada. Fall injuries ranged from concussion to bumps and bruises.

**Description:** This recall includes Stork Craft cribs with manufacturing and distribution dates between January 1993 and October 2009. This recall also includes Stork Craft cribs with the Fisher-Price logo that have manufacturing dates between October

1997 and December 2004. The Stork Craft cribs with the Fisher-Price logo were first sold in the U.S. in July 1998 and in Canada in September 1998. The cribs were sold in various styles and finishes. The manufacture date; model number; crib name; country of origin; and the firm's name, address, and contact information are located on the assembly instruction sheet attached to the mattress support board. The firm's insignia "storkcraft baby" or "storkling" is inscribed on the drop-side teething rail of some cribs. In Stork Craft cribs that contain the Fisher-Price logo, this logo can be found on the crib's teething rail, in the manufacturer's instructions, on the assembly instruction sheet attached to the mattress support board, and on the end panels of the Twinkle-Twinkle and Crystal crib models.

**Remedy:** Major retailers in the United States and Canada sold the recalled cribs, including BJ's Wholesale Club, J.C. Penney, Kmart, Meijer, Sears, USA Baby and Wal-Mart stores and online at Amazon.com, Babiesrus.com, Costco.com, Target.com and Walmart.com from January 1993 through October 2009. The cribs were manufactured in Canada, China and Indonesia. Consumers should contact Stork Craft toll-free at 877.274.0277 to order the free repair kit.

## Art Easels Recalled

**Product:** 10,000 Young Artist easels

**Hazard:** The chalkboard surface coating contains high levels of lead, violating the federal lead paint standard.

**Incidents:** None reported

**Description:** The children's art easel has a chalkboard surface on one side and a white board surface on the other side. The item number is AA13301 and the UPC number is 082435133010, which can be found on the original packaging.

**Remedy:** The easels were sold at art supply stores nationwide and online from July 2004 through June 2009. Consumers should stop using the recalled easels and contact MacPherson's at 866.319.5335 to receive a free replacement chalkboard panel.



# Unsafe Swing Sets Recalled



**Product:** 275,000 Adventure Playsets

**Hazard:** The plastic-coated lumber on the horizontal ladder (monkey bar/swing beam) can weaken over time due to rotting of the whitewood (spruce, pine and fir species), resulting in a fall hazard.

**Incidents:** Adventure Playsets has received more than 1,400 reports of rotting ladders involving 16 injuries that resulted in nine emergency room visits. Most of the reported injuries occurred when the swing came out of the monkey bar/ swing beam that had rotted.

**Description:** Each swing set has an overhead monkey bar ladder that acts as both the monkey bar and swing beam and an end ladder coated with cranberry or green plastic. The instruction manual has the name “Adventure Playsets” and one of the following model numbers printed on the cover: Durango 1-AP016 and 1- AP018, Tacoma 1- AP017 and 1-AP051, Bellevue 1-AP048, and 1-AP012, Sherwood 1-AP049, Belmont 1-AP003, Yukon 1-AP052, El Dorado 1-AP016, Dakota 1- AP046, Sedona 1- AP002, Madison 1- AP006 and 1-AP015

**Remedy:** The sets were sold at Wal-Mart, Toys R Us, Academy Sports, Menards and Mill stores nationwide; online at Walmart.com, ToyRUs.com and Willygoat.com; and through the DMSI catalog from January 2004 through December 2007. Consumers should stop using the swing sets and contact Adventure Playsets at 877.840.9068 to receive a replacement kit.

## Bunk Beds Unsafe

**Product:** 20,000 wooden bunk beds

**Hazard:** The bunk beds’ mattress support slats and side support railings can break, posing a risk of the bunk bed collapsing and a fall hazard to consumers.

**Incidents:** Big Lots has received 14 reports of the recalled bunk beds’ support slats cracking or breaking, including four reports of minor injuries.

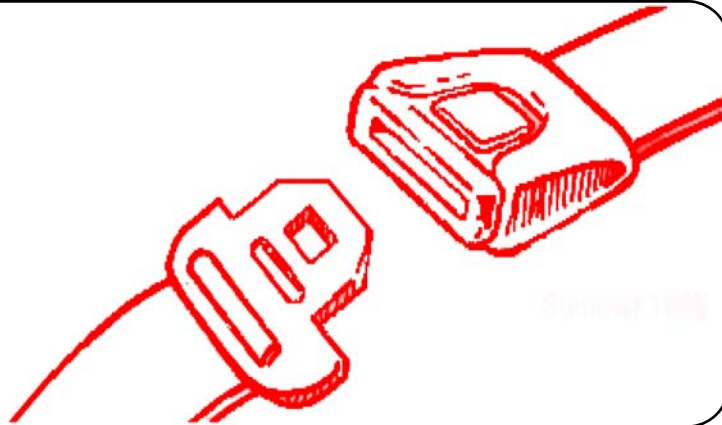
**Description:** This recall includes wooden bunk beds with a three-step ladder. Model numbers WP-9108-1 and WP-9108-2 are included in this recall. The model number is located on a sticker on the interior panel of the headboard or the footboard.

**Remedy:** The bunk beds were sold at Big Lots stores nationwide. Consumers should stop using the bunk beds and contact Big Lots at 866.244.5687 to return the defective parts and to receive a free repair kit.





# The Buckle Update



## Tipping the Scales – Heavier-Weight Children and Car Seats

Over the past 30 years, the rate of obesity has doubled for children ages 2 through 5 and 12 through 15 and tripled for kid ages 6 through 11.<sup>1</sup> Aside from the obvious health concerns related to this trend, there are serious implications for child passenger safety.

For many years, most child restraints had harnesses with upper weight limits of 40 pounds. This presented a problem because many children reach 40 pounds when they are ages 2 and 3. These children often are placed in booster seats, which provide less protection than a child restraint with a five-point harness. Booster seats do not work well for young toddlers because vehicle shoulder belts do not prevent them from leaning forward or from placing the shoulder belt behind the back or under the arm. From a developmental standpoint, it is recommended that children younger than 4 use a car seat with a harness.

A few car seat manufacturers were producing child restraints with higher weight harnesses, but they tended to be very expensive. Fortunately, the number of products with higher weight harnesses has increased significantly in the past couple of years, so parents now have more options for keeping their toddlers in five-point harnesses until at least age 4. The following is a partial list of child restraints with harnesses rated for children who weigh more than 40 pounds:<sup>2</sup>

**Forward-facing 20-22 to 50 pounds :** Britax Roundabout 50, Evenflo Titan Elite, Evenflo Triumph Advance, Safety 1<sup>st</sup> Alpha Omega, Safety 1<sup>st</sup> Alpha Omega Elite, Safety 1<sup>st</sup> Complete Air

**Forward-facing 20-22 to 65 pounds:** Britax Boulevard, Britax Decathlon, Britax Marathon, Graco Nautilus, Graco MyRide 65, Safety 1<sup>st</sup> Apex 65, Sunshine Kids Radian, 1<sup>st</sup> Years True Fit

**Forward-facing 20-22 to 80 pounds:** Britax Frontier, Britax Regent, Sunshine Kids Radian 80 and Radian XT

Although more products are available, there are some challenges to their use. These child restraints are still somewhat more expensive, there is a lack of awareness about the need to keep young children in higher-weight harness seats, and some parents prefer to move their child into a booster before the child is developmentally ready. Parents also should be aware that most vehicle LATCH systems are rated for 40 to 48 pounds, so they will need to use the seat belt (instead of LATCH) as the child grows. They always must refer to their vehicle owner's manual and car seat instructions for specific information.

<sup>1</sup> Safe Ride News, May/June 2009

<sup>2</sup> Alternatives to Boosters for Use in Personal Vehicles, Joseph Colella, Traffic Safety Projects, 8-11-2009

# Do's and Don'ts of Child Restraint Use

DO read the instructions for your car seat and refer to the vehicle owner's manual for installation tips

DO use the correct car seat for your child's weight, height and age. The instructions and labels on the car seat provide this information.

DO keep your child rear-facing as long as possible – until the upper rear-facing weight limits of the convertible car seat.

DO keep your toddler in a car seat with a harness for as long as possible – until at least age 4.

DO install your car seat tightly. The seat should not move any more than 1 inch side to side or front to back.

DO use a tether strap on your forward-facing car seat if at all possible. Tether straps hold the top of the seat back and help prevent serious head and neck injuries.

DON'T use secondhand car seats unless you know that the seat has not been in a crash, is in good condition with all the parts, and is not recalled or expired.

DON'T use the LATCH (lower anchors and tether straps) system and the vehicle seat belt at the same time.

DON'T use “add-on” products that did not come with the car seat unless approved by the car seat manufacturer.

Frustrated with your car seat?  
Call 800.472.2286 for help!



**NORTH DAKOTA**  
DEPARTMENT of HEALTH

# Children and “Advanced” Airbags

Frontal airbags are often taken for granted in today's vehicles, but airbags in newer vehicles differ greatly from the airbags of 1996, when they became a federally mandated feature.

**⚠ WARNING**

**EVEN WITH ADVANCED AIR BAGS**



- Children can be killed or seriously injured by the air bag
- The back seat is the safest place for children
- Never put a rear-facing child seat in the front
- Always use seat belts and child restraints
- See owner's manual for more information about air bags

Newer vehicles have advanced or “smart” airbags that sense the weight of the occupant, vehicle position, seat belt use and severity of the crash. In the event of a collision, a computer makes a multi-second decision that adjusts the force and size of the airbag deployment. Depending on the weight and position of the occupant, the airbag may deploy at full force, reduced force or not at all. For smaller occupants, the airbag size may be smaller and softer.

Even with advanced airbags, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration recommends that children younger than 13 ride in the back seat. However, in North Dakota in 2008, about 18 percent of children younger than 11 were observed riding in the front seat. Parents often believe their child is safe in the front because the airbag has an automatic suppression system that turns the passenger airbag off when a child is seated there.

Regardless of whether a vehicle has first-generation airbags, advanced airbags or no airbags, children are safer riding in the back seat – buckled up. In addition to airbag injuries, children in the front seat often are injured through contact with the dashboard and windshield.