

Get The Facts

TOY SAFETY

MAGNETS

- Strong magnets are found in many toys.
- Examples include toy darts, building sets, jewelry, beads and fashion dolls with magnetized accessories.
- Toys with magnets should be kept away from children under six years of age.
- Check magnetic toys regularly and get rid of those with loose magnets.
- If swallowed, magnets can attract each other across the intestine leading to serious illness or death.
- If a child may have swallowed any magnets, seek medical attention right away.



OTHER HAZARDS

- Avoid toys with long or stretchy cords that can strangle a child.
- Listen to toys with sound to ensure they are not too loud.
- Check squeeze toys to make sure the squeakers can not fall out or be pulled out.
- Check toys for sharp edges or points.
- Ensure that ride-on toys have a wide base to prevent tipping.
- Watch children playing with latex balloons and throw them out immediately if broken to prevent choking.
- Check toys for loose parts to prevent choking.
- Throw out scratched or cloudy toys from your child's toy box.
- Avoid plastic toys with a strong chemical smell.
- Do not let children chew on soft bath or inflatable toys, key chain pendants or jewelry.

TOY RECALLS

- In Canada, toy safety is governed by the Hazardous Products Act and the Hazardous Products (Toys) Regulations.
- Unsafe toys still enter the Canadian market making advisories, warnings and recalls necessary.

SAFETY TIPS FOR GIFT GIVING

- Always consider a child's age and abilities when selecting toys.
- When giving sports equipment such as bikes or roller blades, include safety gear such as helmets, knee pads, etc.
- Choose toys made in countries with strict manufacturing laws such as Canada, the United States, Japan or members of the European Union.
- Choose unpainted wooden toys or machine-washable cloth toys.

For more information or to sign up for free notices from Consumer Product Safety, Health Canada visit:
www.tbdhu.com/hbhf



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Children Learn Through Play

Toys are a key part of play and safety is important. Make sure each toy is suited to a child's age and abilities. Follow the age recommendations on each toy.

Here are some tips to keep in mind:

BIRTH TO 6 MONTHS

Infants can't move around a lot but they are drawn to faces. They prefer playing with people more than toys. Babies need constant supervision and help to play. Choose large, brightly coloured toys for babies to look at and touch. Talk to your baby during play.



6 TO 18 MONTHS

Babies and young toddlers tend to play alone. They enjoy exploring and putting things into their mouths. Their motor skills are greater than their ability to identify danger. They require constant supervision when playing. Choose large, sturdy, brightly coloured toys such as stacking sets and board books.

18 TO 36 MONTHS

Toddlers continue to put all sorts of things into their mouths. They like to play alone but are more curious about the things around them. They need close supervision while they explore their world on their own. Choose large sturdy toys such as balls, large crayons and ride-on toys.

3 TO 6 YEARS

Preschool children begin to play with other children. They are less likely to put things into their mouths so they can play with toys made with smaller parts. Preschoolers also begin to use their imagination. They are more interested in dressing up and doing crafts and art. They require close supervision to prevent injuries. Choose toys such as books, dolls, cars, simple games and puzzles. Safety scissors can be used if watched closely.

6 TO 10 YEARS

School-aged children are able to play on their own and with others. Their fine motor skills are improving and they can enjoy a variety of activities. While they still require supervision, they can play alone with the support of parents or caregivers nearby. Choose arts and crafts, games and sports equipment with safety gear.

TOY STORAGE

- Store toys in a box without a lid for easy access and to prevent injury.
- Keep play rooms free of clutter.
- Remove toys that are no longer played with or are too young or too old for the children.
- Store toys for older children away from those for younger children.
- Discard toys that are scratched, cloudy or worn out.
- Keep antique toys out of reach. Safety standards have improved over the years to reduce the risk of injury from lead paint and other hazards.



PACKAGING

- The packaging that comes with toys is not meant to be played with.
- Discard plastic wrap and plastic bags to prevent suffocation.
- Remove hard plastic packaging prior to play to prevent cuts.
- Before toys are given to children discard styrofoam peanuts to prevent choking.

BATTERIES

- Batteries, including button batteries, pose many dangers to children.
- Only adults should charge or install batteries to prevent burns.
- Do not mix batteries as they can over heat and leak.
- Do not allow children to take battery operated toys to bed.
- Keep battery operated toys away from water unless they are meant for use in the bathtub.
- Battery operated toys for young children should have a secured compartment to prevent easy access to the batteries. A tool should be needed to open the compartment.
- Always seek medical attention if a battery is swallowed.

KEY CHAINS AND JEWELRY

- Although lead levels are regulated in toys and jewelry in Canada, high levels are still found in some products such as key chain pendants.

- If jewelry or a key chain can be used to write on paper or feels heavier than it should, it may contain high levels of lead and should not be given to children. Report concerns to Consumer Product Safety, Health Canada.

