



# HOME PRODUCT SAFETY

## Fact Sheet

### BE A SAVVY SHOPPER!

Whether obtaining products new or second hand, follow the 4 C's!

**Check** for recall or ban on items

**Consult** store for product information before buying.

**Complete** information on warranty cards at the time of purchase.

**Complain,** enquire & comment about products at the BC & Yukon Regional Product Safety Office.  
1-866-662-0666

### Did you know?

- Injury is the leading cause of death for British Columbians between the ages of 1 and 19 years.
- More than 260 children (0-19 years) are killed and more than 7,000 are injured each year in British Columbia due to unintentional injuries.
- Injuries to children from the use of **consumer products** at home are common and at times even fatal.
- Consumer products are those items purchased by consumers for their own personal use. e.g. trampolines, toys, bunk beds etc.
- Consumer product-related injuries include broken bones from falls, soft tissue injuries, suffocation and strangulation.
- **Not every product available on the market is safe.** Tips to manage risks include:
  - **See:** Look at the products in and around your home through the eyes of your child and put away items that are not meant for children.
  - **Size:** Choose bigger products, especially for smaller children.
  - **Strings:** Ensure that strings on products are firmly attached and not long enough to get caught or cause strangulation (e.g. window cords) or choking.
  - **Surface:** Check that the product has smooth edges and no sharp corners
  - **Standards:** Look for product certification such as a Canadian Standard Association or American Standard TM sticker or label.
  - **Supervision:** Supervision at all times is crucial for the safety of your child!

*This Fact Sheet was developed in support of the Safe Kids Week - 2009, by the BC Injury Research and Prevention Unit, in partnership with the BC Injury Prevention Leadership and Action Network, CHIRPP and Safe Kids Canada.*

*The data presented in this fact sheet was obtained from the Canadian Hospitals Injury Reporting and Prevention Program (CHIRPP). The data was collected on all injuries to children aged 0-19 years who were seen at the Emergency Department at the BC Children's Hospital.*

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*Children have been strangled and died when the chin strap of their cycling helmet they were wearing became entangled between two parts of a playground structure.*  
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*Falls and strangulation are the leading causes of injury to children on home playground equipment (e.g. slides, swings, etc).*  
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## TRAMPOLINES

- In BC, between 2003 and 2007, there were 422 trampoline-related injuries in children 1 to 19 years of age.
- The highest incidence of trampoline-related injuries occurs among children between the ages of 5 to 9 years.
- More than half of the trampoline-related injuries resulted in broken bones either to the ankle (18%), elbow (15%), forearm (12%) and lower leg (9%).
- 72% of trampoline injuries required medical treatment.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Due to increased rates of trampoline-related injuries, Safe Kids Canada and the Canadian Pediatric Society advise parents: "Don't use, don't buy and get rid of your trampoline".



**DO NOT USE TRAMPOLINES**

## HOME PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

- Between 2003 and 2007, there were 124 injuries involving home playground equipment.
- The highest incidence of home playground-related injuries occurs among children between the ages of 2 to 9 years.
- 40% of the injuries were from an uncontrolled jump, fall, or drop from a height.
- 49% of home playground injuries resulted in broken bones.
- 69% of home playground injuries required medical treatment.



**REMOVE STRINGS FROM A CHILD'S CLOTHING**

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Remove drawstrings and other cords from clothing, as they can get trapped in equipment and strangle a child.
- In the winter, use a neck warmer rather than a scarf and use mitten clips instead of cords or strings.
- Children should NOT wear bicycle helmets while they are on home playground equipment as helmet straps can cause strangulation.
- Do not use skipping ropes while on home playground equipment.
- Ensure your home playground equipment has strong handrails and barriers to help prevent falls.
- Children under five years should not be on home playground equipment that is higher than 5 feet or 1.5 meters.

## CRIBS

Children have been known to suffocate and die after being trapped between a collapsed mattress and the side of a crib.

Only use cribs made **after** September 1986. Cribs made before this date **DO NOT** meet current standards and put children at increased risk.

Some household items, particularly those with wheels, can easily tip (furniture, TV stands & appliances), while other injuries are caused by children jumping/falling from furniture (chairs, sofas, beds).

- Between 2003 and 2007, there were 105 injuries involving cribs.
- The highest incidence of crib-related injuries occurs among children between the ages of 1 to 2 years.
- 43% of the cases involved minor head injuries.
- 31% of crib-related injuries required medical treatment.



**DO NOT PLACE LARGE TOYS IN YOUR CHILD'S CRIB**

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Do not put large pillows, heavy blankets, bumper pads or stuffed toys in your baby's crib.
- Ensure that:
  - the crib has double locks for securing the drop side.
  - the crib mattress is firm and fits tightly within the crib.
  - the crib has no loose, missing or broken parts.
- Remove bibs, necklaces or anything tied around the baby's neck whenever the child is in the crib.
- Always lock the sides of the crib in the upright position after placing the baby in it.

## TELEVISIONS

- Between 2003 and 2007, there were 90 injuries involving televisions and/or television stands, in children 1 to 19 years.
- The highest incidence of television-related injuries occurs among children between the ages of 2 to 4 years.
- Facial and head injuries accounted for more than half of the cases reported.
- 60% of television-related injuries required medical treatment.



**AVOID FURNITURE WITH WHEELS**

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Children should NOT climb or hang from furniture.
- Ensure that televisions, television stands and/or cabinets have a wide and stable base that sits directly on the floor.
- Use angle braces, anchors, and safety straps to secure furniture to the wall.

Children have been known to swallow magnets that may become loose from their toys. The child may choke or suffer internal injuries as the magnets are attracted to each other inside the stomach and/or intestine of the child.

## MAGNETS

- Between 2003 and 2007, there were 22 injuries involving magnets in children between the ages of 1 to 14 years.
- The highest incidence of magnet-related injuries occurs among children between the ages of 2 to 4 and 10 to 14 years.
- 50% of magnet-related injuries required medical treatment.



**MAGNETS CAUSE CHOKING, SEVERE INTERNAL INJURY OR EVEN DEATH**

## RECOMMENDATIONS

If you do own toys with magnetic pieces:

- Supervise your children when they are playing with magnetic toys, as loose magnets when swallowed can lead to intestinal injuries.
- Choose age-appropriate toys and ensure that older siblings put their magnetic toys away and out of reach of younger children.
- Inspect magnetic toys regularly to ensure that they are in good condition and throw away any toys with loose or broken magnets.

*For more information visit:*

*Safe Kids Canada at:* [www.safekidscanada.ca](http://www.safekidscanada.ca)

*Health Canada at:* [www.hc-sc.gc.ca](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca)

*Need more information on past recalls and advisories?*

*E-mail:* [info@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:info@hc-sc.gc.ca)

*Want to subscribe to the Consumer Product Safety News?*

*E-mail:* [cps-spc@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:cps-spc@hc-sc.gc.ca)

*Want to complain about a product OR report a consumer product-related injury/death OR need more information, contact:*

The British Columbia and Yukon Regional Product Safety  
Office of Health Canada

Suite 400, 4595 Canada Way, Burnaby, BC. V5G 1J9

Tel: (604) 666-5003 OR Toll-free: 1-866-662-0666

E-mail: [Bby\\_ProdSafe@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:Bby_ProdSafe@hc-sc.gc.ca)

Or contact the National Consumer Product Safety Office at:

1-866-662-0666

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