



Toxic Metals and Chemicals in Toys

- Lead, cadmium and phthalates are dangerous to your child's health.
- Avoid toys made of PVC plastic, which could contain toxic phthalates that are developmental hazards.
- Read the labels of play cosmetics and avoid products with xylene, toluene, or dibutyl phthalate.
- Avoid toy or children's jewelry as they may contain high levels of cadmium or lead.
- Don't let your child bite or mouth toys that are metal or plastic.
- Choose unpainted wooden or cloth toys instead.

To check out recent recalls of dangerous toys or report a dangerous toy to the Consumer Product Safety Commission:

1-800-638-2772

www.saferproducts.org



Scan this code on your smartphone or visit www.toysafety.mobi to get all of these tips and more on your phone.



Toy Safety Tips

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U.S. PIRG
Education Fund



Not every toy is safe.

This brochure provides you with safety tips to help you buy toys that are safe and avoid toys that may pose a choking, strangulation or toxic hazard.

Strangulation Hazards

Keep mobiles out of the reach of children in cribs. Remove them before baby is five months old or can pull herself up.

Remove knobs or beads from cords longer than one foot to prevent the cords from tangling into a dangerous loop.

Clothing with drawstrings on the hood can get caught on fixed objects like playground equipment and pose a strangulation hazard.

Choking Hazards

Choking is a common cause of toy-related deaths. Children choke on balloons, small balls and small toys or parts.

- **Buy big toys.** Do not buy small toys or toys with small parts for a child under 3. If a toy or toy part can pass through a toilet paper tube, don't buy it.
- **Check for Warning labels.** Toys for a child between 3 and 6 will have a choke hazard warning.
- **Stay alert with balloons and small balls.** Small balls or ball-like shapes can completely block a child's airway. Never give latex balloons to children younger than 8. Balloons and pieces of balloons are the leading choking hazard.
- **Check ball size.** Children under 6 should play with balls with a diameter greater than 2 inches.

Magnetic Toys

Small, powerful magnets used in building toys and magnetic jewelry can fall out and look like shiny candy. If a child swallows multiple magnets, the magnets attract each other in the stomach and intestines and will cause a serious injury. If a child swallows even one magnet, seek medical attention immediately.

Keep watch and button batteries away from children. If swallowed their battery acid can cause serious injuries.

Noise Hazards

Children's ears are sensitive. If a toy seems too loud for your ears, it is probably too loud for your child. Take the batteries out of loud toys or cover the speakers with tape.

Ride on Toys

If you plan to buy bicycles, skateboards, inline skates or scooters make them safer by also giving a helmet, knee pads, elbow pads and wrist guards.

