



SAFETY INCENTIVE PROGRAM
950 Keynote Circle, Suite 10
Cleveland, Ohio 44131-1802
Telephone (216) 398-9860

December 2006

SIP TIP: "IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR..."



Ask any kid why, and getting toys is often a top reason. Let us make this holiday season a safe one by warning all gift givers about the five toy hazards that can take all the fun out of any celebration.

- **Magnets** - For children under age six, avoid building sets with small magnets. If swallowed, serious injuries and/or death can occur.
- **Small Parts** for children younger than age three, avoid toys with small parts, which can cause choking.
- **Ride-on Toys** - Riding toys, skateboards and in-line skates go fast and falls could be deadly. Helmets and safety gear should be sized to fit.
- **Projectile Toys** - Projectile toys such as air rockets, darts and sling shots are for older children. Improper use of these toys can result in serious eye injuries.
- **Chargers and Adapters** - Charging batteries should be supervised by adults. Chargers and adapters can pose thermal burn hazards to children.



Choose appropriate toys for children by using the following tips:

- Be a label reader. Look for toy labels that give age and safety recommendations and use that information as a guide.
- Select toys to suit the age, abilities, skills and interest level of the intended child. Look for sturdy construction, such as tightly-secured eyes, noses and other potential small parts.
- For all children under 8, avoid toys that have sharp edges and points.

Once the gifts are open:

- Immediately discard plastic wrappings on toys before they become dangerous play things.
- Keep toys appropriate for older children away from younger siblings or neighbors.
- Pay attention to instructions and warnings on battery chargers. Some chargers lack any device to prevent overcharging.

There has been reports of 20 toy-related deaths involving children under age 15 that occurred in 2005. Nine of these deaths occurred when a child choked or aspirated on a small ball or other toy parts. Also, in 2005 an estimated 152,400 children under 15 years old were treated for toy-related injuries in U.S. hospital emergency rooms. The majority of these injuries were not the result of a recalled or dangerous product. Instead, injuries from riding toys such as falls, made up a significant number of the injuries.



If you have already purchased gifts make sure you check that their gift lists do not include any of the recalled toys or children's products on CPSC's Web site. Check for product recalls on www.cpsc.gov. Also, at this web site, consumers can keep up-to-date on dangerous products by signing up to have recall announcements sent directly to their email account. Choose to receive all recall announcements or just children's product recalls only. Consumers also can call CPSC's toll-free hotline at (800) 638-CPSC.

For information about all types of recalls, visit www.recalls.gov.

Source: U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), and AARP

Remember: CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING - PAY ATTENTION TO AGE LABELS