

KEEPING KIDS SAFE

CHILDREN'S AND NURSERY PRODUCTS



CONSUMER AFFAIRS
MANATŪ KAIHOKOHOKO

New Zealand Government



Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE)

Hikina Whakatutuki Lifting to make successful

MBIE develops and delivers policy, services, advice and regulation to support economic growth and the prosperity and wellbeing of New Zealanders.

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INTRODUCTION

Children and babies have no sense of danger and rely on others to keep them safe.

Even safe products can be harmful if they are not used in a safe way. Everyday items can cause harm if not assembled correctly or placed safely in the room away from hazards.

This booklet helps you decide what products to buy for your child and how to use them safely.

Remember to talk about safety to family and friends who may buy products for your child, or care for them when you're not there.



SAFETY AT HOME

Safe products in a safe environment

There are some general things you can do to make your home a safe place for children. For example, keeping blind cords tied up will prevent children becoming tangled in them.

Standards New Zealand have produced an easy-to-use guide outlining design, building, and maintenance steps you can take to reduce hazards in the home.

See Standards New Zealand Handbook SNZ HB 4102:2011 Safety in the home, which you can read on the ACC website: www.acc.co.nz/preventing-injuries/at-home/index.htm

Safe supervision

You as a parent or caregiver are responsible for keeping your child safe.

Children need to be constantly supervised, even when asleep, to prevent accidents from happening and to keep them safe. If you have to leave your child alone for a moment, first make sure they are completely safe. Infants should be put into a cot.

Never leave children alone and unsupervised:

- in or near water
- near a fire or heater
- near unfenced stairs
- unrestrained in a pram or stroller.

ACC advise: 'be there and be aware'.

Older children also need to be watched when they are playing with younger children. A toy which is safe for an 11 year old could be very unsafe for a one year old. Also, older children do not always understand that they need to play gently with younger children. They may not recognise when a younger child is in danger.

Childproof your home

- Keep cigarette lighters away from children, especially barbeque and novelty lighters that look like toys.
- Use childproof locks on cupboards containing batteries, magnets, dishwashing powders, cleaning products etc.
- Tie long cords from blinds or curtains out of children's reach.
- Place cots and bunk beds away from windows, pictures, shelves or ceiling fans.
- Use safety barriers or guards for stairs, heaters, fires and doors which open to a driveway.
- Keep hot drinks away from children.
- Keep glass tables or coffee tables away from where children play.
- Fit smoke alarms and check them regularly (e.g. at the start and end of daylight saving).
- Fit covers over power points.
- Keep tools and products in garages and sheds out of children's reach.
- Fence pools and hot tubs or spa pools.

Some hazards to watch

'Stay a metre from the heater'

- Keep heaters at least one metre away from bedding, clothes, curtains, rugs and furniture.
- Always keep young children away from heaters and fires and never leave them unsupervised in a room where a heater or fire is on.
- Use a fireguard.

Furniture

Several features can make furniture unsafe, especially for infants and children.

- Tall items like bookcases and chests of drawers that are not secured to the wall can fall when children climb on them, or in an earthquake.
- Low items like a large television with a small base can be unstable and fall onto children.
- Glass tables can shatter.

Fit restraints on any furniture that may tip over or children may climb on, e.g. drawers or televisions.



Button batteries

Small ‘button’ batteries are used in all sorts of devices, from remote controls to car keys. If they are swallowed by small children, they can cause serious (and even fatal) injuries in as little as two hours.

When a button battery comes into contact with fluids in the body, it creates an electrical current. This current causes serious and sometimes permanent tissue damage, which may require multiple, painful surgeries to repair. In some cases, it can prove fatal.

Check your home, car and any other place your child goes for devices that may contain button batteries. Make sure these batteries are securely enclosed in the device and lock any spare button batteries away. Keep button batteries – even ‘flat’ ones – out of children’s reach.

If you think your child may have swallowed a button battery, take them to hospital immediately.

Magnets

Small, super-strong magnets are popular and sometimes sold in sets as ‘educational’ toys. These magnets are harmless to play with but if swallowed can cause serious internal damage that can require major surgery.

Because of their strength, older children have been known to use these magnets as mock jewellery, such as mouth or tongue studs. Young children put them in their mouth out of curiosity and have swallowed them.

If two or more of these magnets are swallowed, they can join up in the digestive system. The pressure they exert can cause serious inflammation and ulceration. Left untreated, this can quickly lead to major tissue damage, perforations and potentially infection, sepsis and death.

Keep small, strong magnets out of reach of children, and supervise teenagers when using them. If you think your child may have swallowed some, take them to hospital immediately.

Safe products

Before you buy any nursery equipment, shop around. Think about safety as well as cost.

Ask the shop assistant how to use a product correctly. People selling children’s products should be able to show you how they work.

Second-hand products

Before you buy or use a second-hand product, check it closely for safety hazards. If there is any obvious damage, DON’T USE IT!



Check for:

- worn, missing, broken or loose parts
- fabric that is worn and/or not firmly fixed to the frame
- security of locking clips or bolts
- peeling paint or damaged wood, metal or plastic
- broken straps or buckles
- rough edges, sharp points or splinters
- instructions on how to assemble or use the product.

Safe use

Injuries can happen because a product is not assembled, maintained or used properly. Sometimes there may be a problem with the product itself. Follow the manufacturer's instructions and use products designed for your child's age and weight.

Only use products for the purpose they are designed for. For example, prams, car seats and capsules are designed to transport a child. The child may fall asleep while travelling, but should be moved to a cot when you reach your destination.

Make sure your child wears protective gear such as helmets when using moving toys such as bicycles, scooters and skateboards. This will encourage them to develop good safety habits from an early age.

Follow instructions and use harnesses

Read the manufacturer's instructions, and follow them when assembling and using products. Check with the supplier



if you are unsure. Always keep within the manufacturer's stated maximum weight capacity.

If a product has a harness, always use it.

Check all items regularly for damage, and watch for:

- loose screws or joints
- open ended tubes, hinges with gaps, or any spaces or holes that can trap heads, fingers and toes
- wear and tear on locking devices – nursery equipment can collapse if locking devices don't work
- stability – make sure it won't tip over in use or if you fit extra accessories
- projections, strings or cords that could snag clothing or could strangle or choke.

Report unsafe products

If you think a product may be unsafe, or you have had an accident or near miss when using it properly, contact Consumer Affairs to let us know. Phone 0508 627 774.

SAFETY STANDARDS

The Consumer Guarantees Act 1993 requires that all goods sold in New Zealand are safe. The supplier is responsible for the safety of their goods.

Many nursery products are covered by safety standards, which aim to prevent injuries or reduce the risk of them happening.

Check for compliance

Look for markings on the product or packaging that says it meets a safety standard.

- If it meets an Australian/New Zealand Standard it may carry the letters AS/NZS and the standard number.
- If it complies with an overseas standard, it may carry markings that show it complies with an International Standardisation Organisation (ISO), European (EN), British (BS), or American (ASTM or CFR) standard.
- Check any endorsements or claims made by suppliers about standards and testing to check that they are genuine and apply to the particular product.

If a product doesn't state that it complies with a safety standard, ask the retailer why not. If they don't know, shop elsewhere or contact the manufacturer for more information.

Mandatory and voluntary safety standards

Some products, such as cots, baby walkers and children's nightwear, are covered by Safety standards. This means that they are

required by law (the Fair Trading Act 1986) to meet the specified safety standard.

Mandatory safety standards are developed by industry experts in engineering design and early child development. It is against the law to supply products (including second-hand products in some cases) that do not meet these standards.

The Commerce Commission enforce mandatory standards. You can report any breaches to them by phoning 0800 943 600 or emailing contact@comcom.govt.nz.

Other products may be covered by voluntary safety standards. Products are not required by law to meet these standards. However, those that do meet them will be safer to use.

The safety standards which apply are given with each product's safety information. The full titles of the standards are also listed at the back of this booklet.

As a consumer, you can encourage traders to supply safe products by always asking for goods which comply with a safety standard.

New designs

New types of products are being developed all the time. New products or designs may not be covered by existing standards. Note that a new product design may look great in your home, but if it hasn't been tested properly using the correct standards, it may not be safe!

SLEEP SAFETY

When buying and using products in which your child will sleep, think about whether they will be able to sleep safely and in a safe position.

Cots

Safety standard:

AS/NZS 2172

MANDATORY

Babies spend a lot of time in their cot, so it's important to make sure that they are safe.

The mandatory standard for household cots requires that cots provide a firm, flat sleeping surface without any gaps or parts that stick out. This is the best sleeping environment for your baby, particularly for unsupervised or overnight sleeping.



Most cot injuries happen when children fall while trying to climb out. If your child is climbing, it is time to consider using a bed.

Children can also get stuck in gaps between the mattress and the cot sides. They can be strangled by their clothing if it catches on tall corner posts or cut-out shapes in the headboard, or by curtains and blind cords they can reach from their cot.

Things to note

- When your baby is lying in a cot, their head must be level. It should not tip forward and press their chin into their chest as this affects breathing. Use this test for other products which your baby may sleep in. Compare the surface and position that these products provide to see whether they are likely to be safe for your baby.
- Avoid products which 'cocoon' the baby or promote a 'foetal' position – babies can't breathe easily when they are curled up. It is important that babies sleep flat on their back, with no toys, clothing or bedding near or covering their face.
- Avoid pillows, loose or soft bedding, or anything which can cover a baby's face and suffocate them.

What the standard requires for cots

Make sure that the cot complies with the mandatory standard. New cots must carry labelling that provides assembly instructions, maintenance and safety information and the manufacturer's details.

Mattresses

- The mattress must be tight fitting – the space between the mattress and cot should be less than 20mm when the mattress is centred in the cot.
- Do not put another mattress on top of the one provided.
- Do not put a mattress into a playpen (sometimes called a play yard) if the manufacturer does not provide one.

Height and gaps

- The cot must be more than 60cm deep so the baby can't climb up and fall out – measure from the top of the mattress to the top rail.
- The cot's sides must have no horizontal bars, ledges or other foot holds.
- The gaps between the bars or slats in the cot must be between 5cm and 9.5cm wide.
- There must be no gaps between 3cm and 5cm wide to trap arms and legs.
- There must be no gaps bigger than 9.5cm for a child to fall through.
- The mattress should fit snugly.

Projections

- No screws, nails or cot features should stick into or out of the cot within reach of the child.
- The corner posts must not be too high – they should be less than 5mm from the top horizontal rail to prevent clothing from being caught.



Other things to check

- The edges are smooth and rounded, not sharp.
- The cot will not collapse when used or moved.
- The base of the cot does not sag or collapse when pushed down.
- There are no transfers, counting beads or name tiles on the cot – these can choke a child.
- If the cot has castors, at least two of them have brakes to prevent the cot from being moved accidentally.

Using your cot safely

Make sure:

- there are no large toys or other large objects – small children can pile up large toys and use them to climb out.
- there are no small objects, or toys that could break into small parts – they can choke a child.
- any mobile toy suspended above a cot is out of reach of your child.
- nothing is tied to the cot with long strings or ribbons – these can strangle a small child.
- the plastic shop wrapper/bag has been taken off the mattress.

Do not:

- use a pillow – they can suffocate children and should not be used for children under two years of age
- use an electric blanket or hot water bottle – these can burn, scald or electrocute young children
- use a wheat bag to heat up the blankets – if they are covered, they can start a fire.

Adjustable cots

Some cots have bases that can be raised and lowered. There should be only two positions for the base. Only use the high position for a child who cannot sit up. Put the base down to the low position before they are able to sit up.

Never put the drop-side down when the base is in the high position, as a child could fall out.

Co-sleepers

Co-sleepers are cots which have three sides and are pushed up against an adult bed. Three-sided cots do not meet the mandatory standard for household cots.

Consumer Affairs does not recommend co-sleepers, as they could trap or suffocate a child.

Infants should have their own sleeping space. If you have to share, use a wahakura or pepi-pod.



Travel, folding and portable cots

Safety standard:

AS/NZS 2195

(This standard does not apply to cradles, carry cots, or non-folding cots.)

Many portable cots are also marketed as playpens. They can be useful temporary beds, but they are not as sturdy as a normal cot. Children have been injured when portable cots have collapsed inwards, and when the bottom of the cot has not been stable.

Things to note

Smaller, lightweight travel cots should:

- be stable so they cannot be tipped over
- have rigid sides and be robust enough to prevent anything falling onto a child
- have a tight-fitting, firm mattress
- have breathable areas of fabric or mesh at mattress level on all sides
- have no gaps or holes to trap fingers.

Sleep positioners and wedges

Consumer Affairs does not recommend that you use sleep positioners, wedges or similar products. They can prevent a baby from moving to a safer position if it gets into difficulty.

Baby hammocks

These are canvas hammocks, which may be attached to a ceiling mounting, clamped around a doorframe, or supported by a stand.

At present, baby hammocks are not covered by any safety standards, so take extra care when using them to keep your baby safe.

Think about how stable the hammock is, whether you can see your child in it, their sleeping position, and any dangers from children and pets knocking into the hammock.

Make sure that the point you intend to suspend the hammock from, such as a doorway or ceiling joist, is able to support the hammock securely. Ceiling mountings should be professionally installed. If you are going to use a door clamp, make sure that the frame is sound and can support the clamp.

Baby hammocks can use different types of supporting frames. Make sure that the one you choose is safe.



Checks before you buy

- The frame's design – how easily can it be tipped over in any direction, for example, if it was knocked by toddlers, pets, or by someone vacuuming?
- Is the stand on a stable floor surface? Carpeted floors may increase the chance of the frame tipping over.
- Does the mattress and bedding in the hammock provide a firm, flat sleeping surface?

- Are the joints and brackets holding the frame together sturdy and solid?
- Are the assembly instructions easy to follow?

Using your hammock safely

Remember to check on your baby often, as babies are not easy to see in a hammock. If your baby has moved in the hammock since you last checked, make sure that they are not wedged in the side of the hammock. The bedding must be away from their face with a clear breathing space.

Think about your baby's sleeping position in the hammock and compare this with the current advice on safe positions. Consider how safe the hammock will be as your baby grows and becomes more active.

Stop using the hammock as soon as your baby is able to move around or sit up. Use a wooden cot that meets the mandatory safety standard instead.

Bunk beds

Safety standard:

AS/NZS 4220

Bunk beds can be dangerous, especially for very young children. Most bunk bed injuries happen when children fall from the top bunk. Children can also get stuck in gaps or get their clothes caught on tall corner posts, which can lead to serious or even fatal injuries.

Things to note

Guard rails

- Look for bunk beds with guard rails or bed-ends on all sides of the top bunk.
- Guard rails should be either permanently attached to the bed or fixed firmly so they cannot be knocked off or removed by a child.
- The top of the guard rail should be at least 360mm higher than the top of the mattress base.
- Guard rails should be smooth and there should be nothing sticking out of the rail that could snag clothing or other items on a child.
- If there is an opening to enable you to access the bed more easily, this opening should be between 300mm and 400mm wide.

Gaps and projections

- Check that there are no gaps of 95mm to 230mm in any part on the bunk bed, including guard rails and rungs on ladders. Small bodies can fit through but heads can get stuck.
- Check that there are no parts that stick out more by than 5mm from the side of the bunk bed. Anything sticking out from bunks could catch clothing and cause it to strangle a child.
- Make sure all screws, nuts, bolts and other fasteners are flush against or inside the bunk surface and do not create a sharp point, edge or a snag danger.

Using your bunk bed safely

Bunk beds are not suitable for children under 9 years of age.

Pay particular attention when using bunk beds that are not familiar to you, for example in holiday accommodation.

- Use the top bunk only for sleeping. Most injuries are caused by children falling while playing on the top bunk.
- Check that ladders and guard rails are fixed and stable.
- Check regularly for wear and tear. Always repair any damage immediately.
- Only use mattresses that are suitable for the particular bunk bed. A deeper mattress reduces the height of the guard rail.

Placing your bunk bed in a room

Make sure you put your bunk bed in a safe position in a room. Keep bunk beds away from:

- other furniture that children may be tempted to try and climb onto
- windows
- ceiling fittings, fans or lights – allow a space of at least two metres
- any curtain and blind cords that children could reach from the bunk bed.



Children's nightwear and dress-ups

Safety standard:

AS/NZS 1249

MANDATORY

Manufacturers have to follow special rules for making children's nightwear. Labels on these clothes can help you make safer choices for your children.

All clothing fabrics burn so keep children's clothing away from heaters or open fires.

Be especially careful when your child is wearing 'dress-up' garments. Do not let them wear fairy costumes or flowing outfits in a room with a heater or unguarded fire.



Checks before you buy

Make sure that the clothing complies with the mandatory standard – Check the garment's labels. There are three labels for



children's nightwear:

**LOW FIRE
DANGER**

- **White Label:**
LOW FIRE DANGER
The garment has a lower fire risk. Either its fabric burns more slowly, or the garment is close-fitting. Buy 'low fire danger' labelled children's nightwear whenever possible. Remember, 'low fire danger' does not mean 'NO fire danger'.

CAUTION
NOT HEAT OR FLAME
RESISTANT
WEAR SNUG-FITTING
TO REDUCE RISK

- **Orange Label:**
The fabric for the garment has a higher fire risk. The garment is designed to be close-fitting to reduce the risk of it catching fire. Make sure that nightwear with this label fits your child snugly.

CAUTION
NOT HEAT OR FLAME
RESISTANT
WEAR SNUG-FITTING
TO REDUCE RISK

- **Red Label:**
The garment has a higher fire risk. Wear the garment in summer rather than winter when it is less likely to catch fire from a heater or fireplace.

Get the right size

Buy nightwear which is close-fitting whenever possible. Nightwear which sits close to the body has less chance of catching fire than baggy, loose clothing.

Don't buy garments that your child needs to 'grow into' as the garments may not be as tight fitting as the manufacturer intended. Nightwear labelled 'Low Fire Danger' may actually have an increased fire danger if the clothing is loose and baggy on your child.

Children under two can also suffocate in sleepwear that is too big. Baggy nightwear may ride up over their face and suffocate them so only use close-fitting clothing. 'One size' does not fit all – sizes should be clearly age-marked.

Sleep bags

Sleep bags should be the right size for your child. 'One size' garments – even if they are adjustable – may allow a child to slip down inside and suffocate.

Tips for home sewing

- Polyester does not burn as quickly as cotton and is suitable for children's nightwear.
- If you are using cotton fabric, make the nightwear close-fitting. Flames do not spread so quickly over close-fitting clothes.
- Use polyester thread for both types of fabric.

NURSERY SAFETY

Baby slings

There are many different designs of baby slings and carriers. Choose one which carries your baby in the same position as you carry them in your arms. Check your baby frequently by placing your arms around them and reposition if necessary.

Never use a sling that carries your baby like a sack or bag, or curls them up like a foetus. These positions can prevent them from breathing.

Baby slings help you carry your baby. They should not be used during activities like cooking, driving or jogging. If you use a sling while feeding your baby, don't continue with other activities as your baby can suffocate if not watched closely. Use the time to bond with your baby.

Prams and strollers

Safety standard:

AS/NZS 2088
BS EN 1888
ASTM F833

Babies and small children spend a lot of time in prams and strollers, so make sure they are safe.

Injuries can happen when a pram or stroller is overloaded with shopping, or because a child tries to climb in or out. Prams and strollers can run away while parked if the brakes are not used.



Checks before you buy

Test drive the pram or stroller before you buy to make sure the height and weight of the pram is comfortable for you, and that it's easy to fold and unfold.

Make sure that:

- the pram or stroller pram is fitted with an adjustable five-point harness
- reversible handles stay in place
- the footrests can be adjusted to fit your child
- the pram or stroller doesn't fold or collapse when you:
 - push it back and forward
 - shake it
 - move it up or down steps, or over a kerb
- the safety straps don't undo when you pull them
- a child cannot undo the buckle
- there are two locking devices to stop the pram or stroller from collapsing
- all locking devices stay locked and can't be dislodged by accident
- the wheels are secure and swivel easily
- the wheels can be locked in position to stop them swivelling on rough roads
- the brakes are easy to operate and it doesn't move when you try to push it with the brakes on.

Using your pram or stroller safely

Strollers have folding mechanisms that can easily trap fingers. Make sure that the stroller's locking mechanisms are out of reach when a child is on board. To avoid injuring yourself, make sure the stroller's folding mechanism is firmly locked when

opening or folding the stroller, or taking it out of a car boot. Avoid holding the stroller where your fingers may be caught if it unfolds suddenly.

Be especially careful getting on and off buses and trains, and crossing roads with prams or strollers. Don't push the pram or stroller onto the road unless you are sure that traffic has stopped.

Always:

- use the harness – a pram is a vehicle, just like a car
- adjust the straps to fit your child
- check that the locks engage each time you use them
- put on the brakes when you park the pram or stroller
- make sure your child's arms are inside the frame when you are pushing the pram or stroller
- keep your child clear of moving parts when you adjust the pram or stroller
- when you have a choice, use lifts and not stairs or escalators.



Do not:

- carry bags or shopping on the handles – this may make the pram tip over
- carry extra children on the pram if it isn't designed to do this
- leave a baby unattended in a pram, even if they are sleeping
- fit accessories other than those specifically designed for that model.

Maintain your pram or stroller

Normal wear and tear can make your pram or stroller unsafe. Check for:

- locks that are no longer firm or working properly
- torn or worn fabric
- worn fastenings, such as domes and Velcro
- torn foam padding that a child could pick out and choke on small pieces.



Change tables

If you can, change baby on the floor – it's much safer.

Change tables may make things easier for an adult, but they do have risks for a child. They may wriggle or roll off the table and be hurt. Head injuries from falls can be severe.



Checks before you buy

Make sure that:

- the table is solid and stable
- folding tables can be locked in the open position
- adjustable tables can be locked in place
- there is a safety strap
- the sides are raised at least 10cm high to prevent your baby rolling off
- the edges are smooth and rounded
- the changing surface is made of strong material and is firmly attached to the frame
- there are no gaps or spaces near the changing surface that could trap your baby's head, arms, or legs.

Using your changing table safely

Always:

- use the restraining strap – this is the only way your child can be safe on a change table
- make sure the table is on a level surface – it could tip if one leg is resting on a rug
- have everything you need within reach.

Never leave your child unattended on a change table. It's not safe to turn your back, not even for a moment.

High chairs

Safety standards:

AS 4684

ISO 9221-1

BS EN 14988-1

ASTM F404

Most injuries involving high chairs happen when a child falls while trying to climb in or out of the chair, or to stand up while inside it. These accidents can happen when the child is not being supervised closely or the safety straps are not being used properly.



Checks before you buy

Make sure that:

- the highchair has a wide base to stop it tipping when your child is sitting in it
- if the highchair is a folding one, the chair can be locked in the open position and will stay locked under the weight of a child
- there is a harness or one can be attached – if there is no harness, buy one separately
- the harness includes a shoulder strap, as well as straps that go around the waist and between the legs
- the harness can be tightened to a snug fit
- a child cannot remove the tray, but you can adjust the tray's position easily and lock it securely in place.

Using your high chair safely

Always:

- supervise your child in the high chair
- use the harness to keep the child safe and get them used to it
- keep your child's hands, fingers or head well clear when you raise or lower the tray
- make sure the chair is on a level surface – it could tip if one leg is resting on a rug
- make sure the child cannot reach electrical cords or other hazards from the chair
- keep the highchair away from a wall, or another piece of furniture – a child can push their feet against nearby furniture or walls and tip the chair over.



Hook-on porta-chairs

This type of chair is clamped on to the side of a table.



Checks before you buy

Make sure that:

- the chair is suitable to use with your type of table
- all the edges are smooth and rounded
- the chair has safety straps to hold the child
- there is a locking clamp to secure the chair to the table
- the support arms have rubber or plastic tips to improve the grip on the table.

Using your hook-on porta-chair safely

The way you use your hook-on porta-chair can make it unsafe for your child. Always:

- fasten the safety straps
- fasten the chair securely to the main table and not to an extension
- make sure the child cannot reach any hazards on the table, such as hot food, hot drinks or knives
- make sure the child cannot reach parts of the table with his or her feet
- keep electrical cords and other hazards out of reach
- watch a child in the chair – if a child pushes the chair away from the table, they may fall backwards on to the floor.

Bibs

Babies can suffocate quickly, so always keep an eye on your baby when wearing a bib.

The safest bibs are cloth bibs with a full collar and no ties, or firm plastic bibs with a tray. Avoid plastic-backed cloth bibs. These could suffocate your baby if the plastic covers their nose and mouth. Tie ribbons can be a choking hazard.

Using a bib safely

Always:

- remove the bib before lying your baby down
- if possible, remove the bib immediately after feeding – if baby needs to keep it on only do so while you are holding your baby, or when your baby is sitting up and near you
- fasten any ties securely so your baby cannot play with them.



Bouncinettes

Bouncinettes are intended for very young babies. They should not be used for babies who can sit up or make vigorous movements. Most injuries from bouncinettes are from falls.



Checks before you buy

Make sure that:

- the bouncinette has a wide base to prevent it tipping over
- the edges are smooth and rounded
- there is a safety strap to secure your child
- the material supporting the baby is not torn or damaged which could cause the baby to fall.

Using your bouncinette safely

- Only use the bouncinette on the floor – never put a bouncinette on a high surface, such as a table or bench top.
- Stop using the bouncinette as soon as your child can sit up or move around.
- Never carry your child in a bouncinette as they could fall out.

Bouncers and jumpers



Checks before you buy or use

Make sure that:

- the doorframe that the jumper is to be attached to is sturdy enough to hold the bouncer or jumper – you may need to reinforce or strengthen it
- holding clips are in perfect condition
- the spring is securely fastened, the hooks at each end are not damaged, and that it has a safety cord in the centre
- the top attachment holding the bouncer is firmly secured to the doorframe or ceiling, as instructed by the manufacturer.

Using your bouncer or jumper safely

- Check the holding clips regularly and replace them as soon as they start to wear.
- Replace any fabric that appears torn or weak immediately.

Do not:

- let other children push or twirl the bouncer
- change the way the bouncer works yourself – home-made modifications will affect the way the bouncer performs and can result in your child being injured.

Baby walkers

Safety standard:

ASTM F977

MANDATORY

Think carefully before you decide to buy a baby walker for your baby. Baby walkers help babies do things they may not be ready for. Playing on the floor is also better for their development. Consumer Affairs does not recommend using baby walkers.

Baby walkers have high rates of injury, mainly head injuries from falls. Babies can fall down steps or stairs. Because a baby is upright in the walker, they can reach things they normally can't. They can be scalded or burned by pulling boiling water down on to themselves, or by reaching open fires and heaters.

In a walker, a baby can be across a room in seconds so they need to be watched at all times. Baby play stations that don't have wheels are generally safer alternatives.



Checks before you buy

Make sure that:

- the base of the baby walker is wider than the tray frame
- the wheels are at least 5cm wide – large wheels make the baby walker more stable
- the baby walker is rigid and sturdy
- all edges are smooth and rounded

- all tubes have their ends sealed to prevent baby's fingers and toes getting trapped
- a folding walker has an automatic lock so that it doesn't collapse in use
- all locking devices are out of reach of a baby
- the baby walker has brakes or other features to stop it moving when it reaches an uneven surface, or a change in level, like a step
- the seat is firmly attached to the frame
- any springs are covered (e.g. by plastic tubing) so they cannot injure a child when they are stretched
- any decorative toys or beads are well fastened.

Using your baby walker safely

Make sure:

- there are safety barriers blocking off steps and stairs, stoves, heaters and fireplaces
- the baby walker is on a flat surface – it could tip if it runs over electric cords or the edges of rugs
- all harmful items are well out of reach (e.g. electric jugs, saucepans and electric irons)
- the baby's feet can touch the floor
- you always supervise a child in a baby walker – do not leave a child unattended in a baby walker
- heavy furniture and appliances such as televisions are secured
- the baby walker is put away when it is not being used.

Do not:

- use baby walkers if your child cannot sit up without support
- use baby walkers if your child can walk by itself without help
- carry the baby walker with a baby in it
- let a child use the baby walker as a push-along toy
- use a baby walker if your child is heavier than the manufacturer's recommended maximum weight.

Safety barriers

Safety standards:

EN 1930
ASTM F1004

Safety barriers are useful to make a safe area for your child, or to block off dangerous hazards such as fires, heaters, and stairs. Children can be injured if the gaps in the barrier are too wide, or if there are bars they can use as a foothold to climb over.



Checks before you buy

Make sure that:

- the top of the barrier is at least 75cm from the floor
- all bars or slats are vertical and the gaps are between 5cm and 9.5cm wide
- all the edges are smooth and rounded.

Using your safety barrier safely

Always:

- check that the barrier is held securely in the doorway or passage
- remove any large toys or other objects nearby – small children can pile them up and use them to climb over the barrier
- be watchful of other children who could move the barrier.

Playpens

Safety standard:

AS/NZS 2195

Playpens with a floor fall within the scope of this Standard as they are essentially the same product as folding cots. Playpens without a floor are not covered by this Standard.

Playpens can help keep children safe as they start to move around. They can provide separate and safer play areas for children of different ages. Children can be injured in playpens if:

- they get stuck in the gaps between the bars
- they climb out and fall
- the playpen is not properly locked in place and it collapses.



Checks before you buy

Make sure that:

- the top edge of the playpen floor is 60cm or more from the floor
- the playpen cannot tip over if your child leans against the side
- all bars or slats are vertical to prevent a child from climbing out
- gaps between the bars or slats are between 5cm and 9.5cm wide
- the edges are smooth and rounded
- any padding is covered with strong material – a child could chew or choke on lumps of padding
- there are no screws, nails or other parts of the playpen sticking out – children could fall on them or catch their clothing and strangle
- no parts can be easily detached by the child.

Using your playpen safely

Always check that the playpen is locked in position before putting your child into it.

Make sure that inside the playpen there are:

- no large toys or other large objects – children can pile up large toys and use them to climb out
- no small objects, or toys that could break into small parts – these can choke a child
- no toys with long strings or ribbons – these can strangle a small child
- no pillows in the playpen – a pillow can suffocate a child and should not be used for children under two years of age
- no toys strung across the playpen – children beginning to stand may get tangled in them.

Do not:

- place the playpen near a heater or power point – your child could be burned or electrocuted
- use a playpen for children who can lift or move the playpen – they are too old for it.

Baby bath aids

Baby bath aids are products like baby bath seats and baby bath rings that support a baby sitting in a bath. They can be useful for mums and dads with bad backs, but there are risks when using these types of products.

Babies have drowned using bath aids.

It's safer to bath your baby without using a bath aid so you're not tempted to leave them, even for a few seconds. A child can drown in a bath aid when:

- the bath aid tips over in water – the suction cups may not completely stick to the bathtub's surface
- the child climbs out of the bath aid into the water
- the child slips through and becomes trapped.



Never leave your baby unattended in the bath. Babies and small children should always be supervised in or near water.



Checks before you use bath aids

- Always check the bath aid for any worn or broken parts before you use it.
- Don't use a baby bath aid with suction cups in a bath with an uneven or slip resistant base, or where the enamel is worn – the suction cups will not stick to this type of bath surface.

Using your bath aid safely

Always:

- supervise babies and small children in the bath
- use only enough water to wet the child using your hands
- prepare the child's clothes and towel before running the bath
- ignore the telephone and the doorbell, and
- take your child with you if you need to leave the bathroom for any reason.

Never leave your child in the bath in the care of an older child – they may not recognise or react fast enough when a baby gets into difficulty.

PLAY SAFETY

Parents and caregivers all need to know about buying safe products and using them safely. Always buy toys that are right for your child's age.

Toys

Safety standard:

AS/NZS ISO 8124.1

MANDATORY

Toys can cut, choke, poison or strangle a child if they are not safe, or are not used safely.

Toys with small parts, or that release small parts when dropped or pulled, can be dangerous for babies and young children.

Young babies explore their world by putting things in their mouths, but children under three years of age do not have a well-developed coughing reflex and will choke easily on small items.





Checks before you buy

Make sure the toy:

- **is the correct size for the child** – the smaller the child, the bigger the toy should be. Children under three years may put things in their mouths, up their noses and in their ears. They should not play with toys smaller than 35mm wide or a toy that can easily break into small parts.
- **has a safe surface and fillings.** Check that paints and fillings used aren't toxic. Ask the sales assistant when buying the toy. Children can be poisoned if they lick or swallow toxic surfaces of toys. Fillings of toys should not come out easily and cause a child to choke on them.
- **is fire resistant** – if it is a soft toy.
- **has smooth edges** – toys with sharp points or rough edges could badly scratch or cut a child.
- **is not too loud** – if it makes a noise. Check the toy yourself before you buy or give it to a child. If it's too loud for you, it's much too loud for a child. A noisy toy could easily damage a child's hearing. Also, each time the child hears noise that is too loud, their hearing gets worse. Damaged hearing can affect a child's development, making it hard for them to learn and socialise with people.

See information on our website about noisy toys at <http://www.consumeraffairs.govt.nz/for-consumers/goods/product-safety/keeping-kids-safe/noisy-toys>.

Choose the right toys for the child's age

0 to 6 months:

- Toys that can be chewed, sucked, and tugged.
- A toy that is big enough so the baby can't fit it all in their mouth.

Good choices include: mobiles with interesting shapes and colours (but keep the mobile out of reach); soft toys; rattles.

6 months to 1 year:

Toys that are strong, easily cleaned, and with no detachable parts.

Good choices include: pull and push toys; floating bath toys; large building bricks or blocks; soft toys; large, soft balls; cars and trucks marked safe for children under one year of age.



2 to 3 years:

Toys to develop a child's coordination.

Good choices include: crayons; felt pens; picture books; sorting games; single musical instruments; balls; hand puppets; wheel barrows; slides; sit-and-ride toys.

3 to 5 years:

Toys that are used for imaginative games.

Good choices include: toys to dress up; toy telephones; dolls houses; farm sets; cars; dump trucks; trains; tricycles; dress-up costumes; balls; buckets and spades; felt pens, paints, chalk, and paper. If buying ride on toys, think about getting a helmet too.

5 to 7 years:

Toys which involve action and imagination.

Good choices: skipping ropes; bikes; kites; construction sets; puppets; play sets; musical instruments; modelling materials. If buying ride on toys, think about getting a helmet too.

7 to 10 years:

Children follow their own interests!

Toy boxes

Toy boxes help keep rooms tidy, but they can also be dangerous. Children can be injured if the lid falls onto their head while they are looking into the box. Fingers can also be jammed or crushed. Toy boxes are safer without lids.



Checks before you buy

Make sure that:

- any lid is light and can be removed completely
- locks can be opened easily from inside
- when the lid is closed there is a gap of 1.2cm between the lid and the box – this will stop fingers getting crushed.

Using your toy box safely

The way you use your toy box aid can make it unsafe for your child.

Always:

- remove any heavy lids
- make sure the toy box cannot be used by the child to climb and reach dangerous places or objects
- replace worn hinges.

Scooters and skateboards

Falls are the most common injury from scooters and skateboards. The severity of injuries can be reduced by wearing appropriate safety gear.

- Wear correctly fitting helmets that meet an approved safety standard.
- Wear elbow and knee pads.
- Ride on the footpath, and watch out for cars using driveways.
- Give way to pedestrians.
- Cross roads safely on foot, at pedestrian crossings.

Bicycles

Safety standard:

AS/NZS 1927

MANDATORY

All new pedal bicycles sold in New Zealand with a wheel base of 640mm or greater must comply with a mandatory standard.

Bicycles (or bikes) use public roads like cars so they must be safe and work properly.

Children's tricycles are considered toys and are NOT allowed on the road. They are also not covered by the safety standard applying to bicycles.



Checks before you buy

Don't buy a bike that is too big for your child. This is unsafe.

Buy from a recognised bicycle dealer or bike shop that can do repairs and servicing and can put things right if the bike is faulty. Make sure the bike that is already assembled or have it assembled by a skilled cycle mechanic.

Using your bike safely

Only use the bike for the reason you bought it. For example, don't use a road or racing bike for riding off-road.

If your bike has been modified, make sure the changes were done by a qualified expert.

Regularly service and maintain your bike. For example, make sure the brake pads are in good condition, the frame is not rusty or bent, the tyres are properly inflated, and the gears don't slip.

Teach your child to ride their bike safely. By law, when riding on the road you must have:

- an approved helmet – it is against the law not to wear one
- a rear red or yellow reflector
- a steady or flashing rear-facing red light that can be seen at night from a distance of 100 metres
- a steady white or yellow forward-facing light that can be seen at night from a distance of 100 metres
- yellow pedal reflectors.

See "Cycles: Road rules and equipment" on the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) website for information about how to ride bikes safely and legally. This also has a list of approved helmet standards. (<http://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/factsheets/01/cycles-rules-equipment.html>).



Trampolines

Safety standards:

AS 4989
BS EN 71
ASTM F2225

A lot of accidents and injuries happen when children use trampolines, often when more than one person is using the trampoline at a time. Teach children how to use a trampoline safely:

Place the trampoline on level ground and preferably on a soft surface like grass or bark.

Keep the trampoline away from buildings, trees or fences, and have a clear space of

least two metres around it and seven metres above it.

If possible, sink the trampoline into the ground, level with the surface.

Checks before you buy or use

Make sure:

- There is no rust or damage to the frame, mat, springs and legs of the trampoline.
- The trampoline has safety padding and netting, which you can buy as separate items. The padding should cover the frame, and ideally the springs as well, to protect a child accidentally landing on them. You can put netting around the outer frame or around the edge of the mat itself (the safest option).

Using your trampoline safely

- only one person on at a time
- only jump in the centre of the mat
- never jump off
- keep away from the trampoline when someone is using it – never sit on safety padding or go underneath
- no flips or somersaults.

Always:

- check before each use – nets can degrade in the sun
- supervise children while they are using it
- keep toddlers, toys and bikes away from the area.

Do not:

- use water or detergents on the surface – only use it dry
- place objects underneath it.



Swings and slides

Whether using home equipment or public playgrounds, check the equipment your child will use to make sure it is safe.

Make sure that children are using age-appropriate play equipment. Small children need a separate play area to keep them safe.

Look for hazards such as rusted or broken equipment and hard surfaces such as asphalt, concrete and gravel. Report any hazards to the owner of the playground, for example the school, parks department or city council.



Check before you use

- Make sure that swings and slide sets are stable and set up on even ground
- Make sure there are no protruding sharp edges from any of the surfaces
- Check all bolts and screws are tight and in good condition
- Check for squeaks, rust and general wear and tear. If any of these are present, do not let children use the swing or slide – get it repaired or replaced.



SAFETY STANDARDS – LIST OF TITLES

AS/NZS 2172	<i>Cots for household use – Safety requirements (Mandatory)</i>
AS/NZS 2195	<i>Folding cots – safety requirements (This standard does not apply to cradles carry cots or non-folding cots.)</i>
AS/NZS 4220	<i>Bunk beds and other elevated beds</i>
AS/NZS 1249	<i>Children's nightwear and limited daywear having reduced fire hazard (Mandatory)</i>
AS/NZS 2088	<i>Prams and strollers – Safety requirements</i>
BS EN 1888	<i>Child care articles. Wheeled child conveyances. Safety requirements and test methods</i>
ASTM F833	<i>Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Carriages and Strollers</i>
AS 4684	<i>High chairs – Safety requirements</i>
ISO 9221-1	<i>Furniture – Children's high chairs – Part 1: Safety requirements</i>
BS EN 14988-1	<i>Children's high chairs. Safety requirements</i>
ASTM F404	<i>Standard Consumer Safety Specification for High Chairs</i>
ASTM F977	<i>Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Infant Walkers (Mandatory)</i>
EN 1930	<i>Child use and Care Articles – Safety Barriers – Safety Requirements and Test Methods</i>
ASTM F1004	<i>Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Expansion Gates and Expandable Enclosures</i>
AS/NZS 2195	<i>Folding cots – Safety requirements Playpens with a floor fall within the scope of this Standard as they are essentially the same product as folding cots. Playpens without a floor are not covered by this Standard.</i>

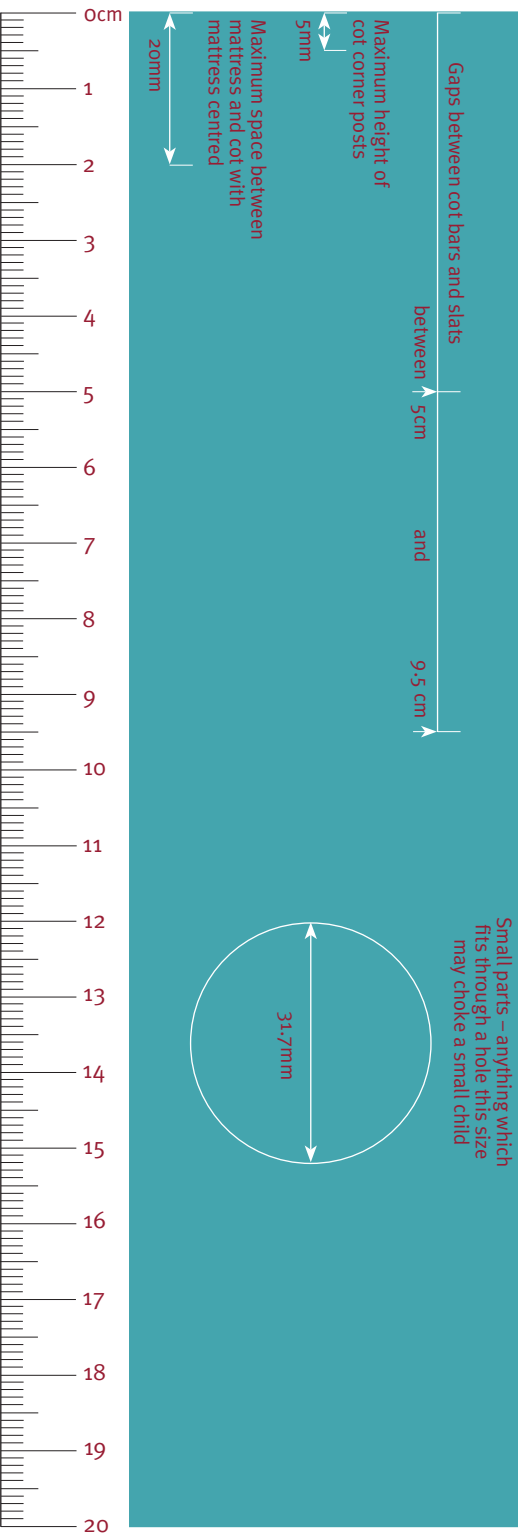
AS/NZS ISO 8124.1	<i>Safety of toys – Safety aspects related to mechanical and physical properties (Mandatory)</i>
AS/NZS 1927	<i>Pedal bicycles – Safety requirements</i>
AS 4989	<i>Trampolines – Safety aspects</i>
BS EN 71	<i>Safety of toys. Trampolines for domestic use</i>
ASTM F2225	<i>Standard Safety Specification for Consumer Trampoline Enclosures</i>

Approved standards for bicycle helmets

AS/NZS 2063	<i>Bicycle helmets</i>
EN 1078	<i>Helmets For Pedal Cyclists And For Users Of Skateboards And Roller Skates</i>
ASTM F1447	<i>Standard Specification for Helmets Used in Recreational Bicycling or Roller Skating</i>

Other helmet safety standards

BS EN 1080	<i>Impact Protection Helmets For Young Children</i>
ASTM F1898	<i>Standard Specification for Helmets for Non-Motorized Wheeled Vehicle Used by Infants and Toddlers</i>
ASTM F144	<i>Standard Specification for Helmets Used in Recreational Bicycling or Roller Skating</i>
ASTM F1492	<i>Standard Specification for Helmets Used in Skateboarding and Trick Roller Skating</i>
ASTM F2032	<i>Standard Specification for Helmets Used for BMX Cycling</i>



NOTES

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CONTACT INFORMATION

To report unsafe goods, or an injury or near miss when a product was being used correctly, contact the Measurement and Product Safety Service – Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE).

This information can help us to identify unsafe goods and take the appropriate action.

See the Consumer Affairs website www.consumeraffairs.govt.nz for more information about product safety and keeping kids safe.

Consumer Affairs
Ministry of Business,
Innovation and Employment
P O Box 1473
Wellington
Phone 0508 627 774
Fax (04) 473 9400
www.consumeraffairs.govt.nz

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www.safekids.org.nz



www.wellchild.org.nz