



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT
SAFETY COMMISSION

The SAFETY REVIEW

AUGUST 2008
EDITION

NANCY NORD
ACTING CHAIRMAN

THOMAS H. MOORE
COMMISSIONER

CONTENTS

PAGE 1

Letter from the Chairman

PAGE 2

Back to School

PAGE 3

Synthetic Turf Fields

PAGE 4

Injury Estimates

PAGE 5

Recall Spotlight

PAGE 6

Recent Recalls

QUICK LINKS

What's New

Report Injuries

CPSC Homepage



Listen to our
safety podcast

Have a question or comment about the newsletter?
E-mail us at feedback@cpsc.gov



ABCs of Back to School Safety

I remember my daughter's first day of kindergarten as a moment of great joy, but also trepidation. Millions of parents will experience similar moments as their little ones leave the security of home and go off to school or daycare.

With more than 50 million school-aged children headed to the classroom this month, we're highlighting Back-to-School Safety in this issue of [The Safety Review](#). When preparing your back-to-school lists, remember to also prepare for your child's safety to prevent injuries at or on their way to school.

Here are CPSC's ABCs of Safety:

- A) Always Shop Smart:** Check for recalled products. Avoid jackets and sweatshirts with drawstrings that can strangle. Make sure art materials have the ASTM D-4236 symbol that shows the product is appropriate for school use.
- B) Be Headstrong:** That means properly wearing the right helmet, whether it's bicycling to school or participating in sports like baseball or football.
- C) Check Play Areas:** Protect against playground falls by ensuring there's sufficient shock-absorbing material underneath and around playground equipment. Make sure movable soccer goals are securely anchored.

Keep kids safe — it's as simple as ABC, and have an enjoyable and safe school year!

Nancy Nord
Acting Chairman



Back-to-School

Later this month, millions of children will head back to school. This year, in addition to buying new clothes and school supplies, parents should put safety at the top of their lists of things to do.

Shop with Safety in Mind

Don't buy jackets or sweatshirts for children with hood or neck drawstrings. Remove drawstrings from outerwear in your children's closets. Drawstrings on hoods or at the neck pose a strangulation hazard because they can get caught on playground equipment or other products. Over the past 23 years, CPSC has received reports of 27 deaths and 70 non-fatal incidents involving the entanglement of children's clothing drawstrings.

Art materials you buy or that your school uses should contain the statement, "CONFORMS TO ASTM D-4236." This shows that the product is non-hazardous.

Check for recalls at www.cpsc.gov. While you're there, sign up for free e-mail notifications so you don't miss any recalls in the future. You can choose which types of product notices to receive.

Keep Playtime Fun

Wear a helmet – it can significantly reduce the risk of a head injury. Bicycle helmets, for instance, can reduce the risk of head injury by as much as 85 percent. There are different helmets for different activities. For the best protection, make sure your child wears **the right helmet** whether it's for biking, football or baseball. Fit is important. A bike helmet should be comfortable and snug, level on the head and securely buckled so it doesn't move or fall off during a fall or collision.

Be safe on the playground. More than 200,000 children each year visit hospital emergency rooms due to injuries received on playgrounds. The most common type of playground injury is a fall from equipment. To prevent serious head injuries, make sure there is at least a nine-inch layer of shock-absorbing surface material made of wood chips, mulch, sand, or pea gravel, or safety-tested rubber or fiber material mats underneath and around playground equipment. Cover exposed hardware that can catch clothing, remove any free-hanging ropes, and make sure bicycle helmets are removed before entering the playground – these are strangulation hazards.

On the soccer field, work with your school to ensure portable soccer goals are securely anchored when in use. Movable soccer goals can fall over and kill or injure children who climb on them or hang from the crossbar. Since 1979, CPSC has reports of at least 30 deaths associated with soccer goals.



Hear more in our podcast





U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT
SAFETY COMMISSION

The SAFETY REVIEW

Play On— CPSC Staff Finds Synthetic Turf Fields OK

As children go back to school, some will be playing on synthetic turf fields at school. Is there cause for concern? Maybe for sprains, cuts and broken bones, but not for exposure to lead.

CPSC staff has evaluated various synthetic athletic fields. The bottom line: young children are not at risk from exposure to lead in these fields. Through testing, staff found many synthetic turf products do not contain lead; and, in those products where lead was found, exposure to lead was low.

The bottom line: young children are not at risk from exposure to lead in these fields.

Lead is present in some synthetic turf products as part of the pigments that give the turf its various colors. As turf is used during athletics or play and exposed over time to sunlight, heat and other weather conditions, the surface of the turf may start to become worn and small particles of the lead-containing synthetic grass fibers might

be released. Although small amounts of lead were detected on the surface of some older fields, no tested field released amounts of lead that would be harmful to children. Newer fields had no lead or generally had the lowest lead levels.

Recognizing that synthetic turf can be manufactured without lead, CPSC staff is asking that voluntary standards be developed for synthetic turf to reduce or eliminate the use of lead in future products. This action is being taken proactively to address any future production of synthetic turf and to set a standard for any new entrants to the market.

As an overall guideline, young children should wash hands after playing outside, especially before eating.



More Information
on Synthetic Turf





NEISS Data Highlights

More than 34 million consumer product-related injuries were medically treated annually from 2004 through 2006. Of these injuries, it is estimated that more than 13 million sought treatment at U.S. emergency departments.

CPSC's National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) provides our agency and other federal agencies with critically important incident and injury information. Patient information is collected from about 100 hospitals for emergency visits involving injuries associated with consumer products. From this sample, the total number of product-related injuries treated in hospital emergency rooms nationwide can be estimated. **It is important to note that these injuries are associated, but not necessarily caused by the product.**



More Information about CPSC's NEISS

Injury Estimates for the Top 25 Product Groupings From the 2007 NEISS Data Highlights

Product Grouping	Estimated No. of Injuries
Stairs, Ramps, Landings, Floors	2,324,938
Beds, Mattresses, Pillows	560,129
Bicycles & Accessories	515,871
Basketball	481,011
Chairs, Sofas, Sofa Beds	476,109
Football	455,193
Bathroom Structures & Fixtures	330,102
Non-glass Doors, Panels	321,665
Tables, not elsewhere classified	309,252
ATV's, Mopeds, Minibikes, etc.	278,671
Baseball, Softball	277,702
Exercise, Exercise Equipment	264,921
Desks, Cabinets, Shelves, Racks	262,171

Product Grouping	Estimated No. of Injuries
Cans, Other Containers	248,126
Clothing	245,129
Ladders, Stools	227,769
All Toys	224,827
Playground Equipment	219,625
Soccer	198,679
Swimming, Pools, Equipment	155,322
Glass Doors, Windows, Panels	155,269
Skateboards	143,682
Workshop Manual Tools	131,396
Carpets, Rugs	128,361
Other Misc. Furniture & Accessories	122,662



RECALL SPOTLIGHT

Jardine Cribs Sold by Babies “R” Us Recalled Due to Entrapment and Strangulation Hazard

Name of Product: Jardine Cribs

Units: About 320,000

Manufacturer: Jardine Enterprises, of Taipei, Taiwan

Hazard: The wooden crib slats and spindles can break, creating a gap, which can pose an entrapment and strangulation hazard to infants.

Incidents/Injuries: There have been 42 incidents of crib slats and spindles breaking. Four children became entrapped in the space created by a broken slat or spindle. Two of the children had abrasions and bruising.

Description: Jardine wooden cribs in various styles and finishes are included in this recall. A complete list of models can be located on CPSC’s Web site. The model number is printed on the inside of the bottom rail of the headboard or footboard.

Sold at: KidsWorld, Geoffrey Stores, Toys “R” Us, and Babies “R” Us stores nationwide, and at babiesrus.com, from January 2002 through May 2008 for between \$150 and \$300, with one model, 0309K00 Mahogany Positano Lifetime Crib, which sold for \$450.

Manufactured in: China and Vietnam

Remedy: Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled cribs and contact Jardine to receive a full credit toward the purchase of a new crib.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, contact Jardine at (800) 646-4106 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. ET Monday through Friday and between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. ET Saturday, or visit the firm’s Web site at www.jardinecribrecall.com.



Lori-Ann Lytle

CPSC Product Safety Investigator
New Milford, CT

This month’s “Recall Spotlight” highlights the importance of safety in a child’s sleeping area. How do cribs and nurseries fit into your role as an Investigator?

Children’s sleeping areas are of great interest to me and to CPSC. Recently, I worked with officials in Westchester County (NY) following the deaths of five infants in their cribs in 2006. My investigation led me to manufacturers, police stations, hospitals and victims’ homes to get a better feel as to how these deaths happened.

A child’s death is a terrible tragedy, but my investigations, along with the evaluation by other experts at CPSC, can expose information that can contribute to preventing future deaths and injuries. CPSC can recall a dangerous product and provide feedback to manufacturers to make a better product for consumers.

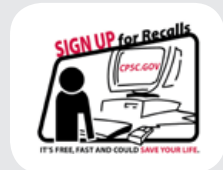
What have your investigations revealed to you about child safety?

Parental supervision is absolutely critical, but beyond that, awareness is key. Getting and using all the information you can about hazards in the home will protect your child.

Throughout New York, I’ve gone to daycare settings to talk about “Cribs, Cords and Children’s Clothing...Hidden Hazards.” In infant sleeping areas, parents should keep it simple: items like pillows and comforters may appear comforting, but can present a suffocation hazard.



SIGN UP for recalls



Sign up for this FREE resource! Signing up is easy, it’s fast, and it could save your life or the life of a family member. Simply provide us with your e-mail address, and start receiving important information today. As soon as there’s a recall, you’ll know about it.

SIGN UP NOW



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

The SAFETY REVIEW

CPCSC Recall Hotline 800-638-2772

RECENT RECALLS



Glue Guns

Dollar Tree, Inc., of Chesapeake, Va., is recalling about 470,000 Crafters Square Hot Melt Mini Glue Guns. The recalled glue guns can short circuit, causing the gun to smoke. This poses a fire hazard to consumers.



Fax Machines

Hewlett-Packard Co., of Palo Alto, Calif., is recalling about 367,000 HP Fax 1010 and 1010xi Machines. An internal electrical component failure can cause overheating of the product posing a risk of burn or fire.



Remote-Controlled Helicopter Toys

Westminster Inc., of Atlanta, Ga., is recalling about 102,000 "Thunder Wolf" Remote-Controlled Indoor Helicopters. The rechargeable battery inside the helicopter can overheat. This can result in the helicopter's body melting, as well as a risk of fire or burns to consumers.



Charm Key Chains

Wal-Mart Stores Inc., of Bentonville, Ark., is recalling about 39,000 "Hip Charm" Key Chains. The charms on the key chain can contain high levels of lead, which is toxic if ingested and can cause adverse health effects.



Camouflage Pajama Sets

The Children's Place Retail Stores Inc., of Secaucus, N.J., is recalling about 28,000 Camouflage Pajama Sets. The screen print on the shirt contains excess levels of lead.



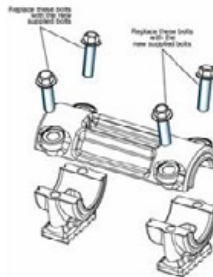
Crib Mattresses

Simmons Kids, a division of The Simmons Manufacturing Co., LLC of Atlanta, Ga., is recalling about 20,000 Simmons Kids Crib Mattresses. Some of the crib mattresses can measure smaller than the 27-1/4 inch minimum width requirement for cribs, creating a gap between the mattress and crib side rails, posing an entrapment hazard to infants.



Children's Merry-Go-Rounds

Pacific Cycle Inc., of Madison, Wis., is recalling about 15,000 Playsafe Spinning Quad Merry-Go-Rounds. The inner bearing on the merry-go-round can fail, causing the seat assembly to suddenly drop to the ground. This poses a fall hazard to children riding the merry-go-round.



Off-Road Motorcycle Clamp Kits

Tucker Rocky Distributing, of Fort Worth, Texas, is recalling about 12,000 Pro Taper Clamp Kits used with Off-Road Motorcycles. Some of the bolts included in the clamp kits (or sold separately), if installed incorrectly, can break under extreme force such as a crash. This can cause the handlebars to separate posing a risk of serious injury to the rider.



Swing Sets

Backyard Leisure LLC, of Pittsburg, Kan., is recalling about 11,000 Adventure Play Sets and Create N Adventure Wooden Play Sets. Hangers holding the chains for the gliders can break, causing a child to fall and suffer injuries.



Hammer Drills

Robert Bosch Tool Corp., of Mount Prospect, Ill., is recalling about 9,700 Bosch Hammer Drills. The drill can continue to operate after the trigger has been released, posing a risk of injury to consumers.



For the latest recalls from around the Federal Government.