

Consumer Product Safety Alert

FROM THE U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20207

Stair Steps and Baby Walkers Don't Mix

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) warns parents that baby walkers are not "baby sitters." Always take precautions and watch a child in a baby walker to prevent the child from tipping over or falling down stairs and being injured or killed.

CPSC estimates that each year there are 21,300 hospital emergency room treated injuries associated with baby walkers for children under 15 months of age. CPSC receives reports of an average one to two deaths a year with baby walkers. Most of the injuries were caused by *falling down stairs*.

Before putting a child in a baby walker, take several precautions. Check for hazardous areas where the baby walker might go. Block off stairways and exit doorways. Avoid areas where there are uneven floors such as carpet edges or raised thresholds

that may cause the walker to tip-over. Clear away objects on tables, countertops, or stove tops that a child in a baby walker might be able to reach. To avoid burn injuries, don't let a child use a baby walker near ranges, space heaters, or fireplaces.

After putting a child in a baby walker, watch the child carefully because a child can move very fast in a baby walker.

A voluntary standard for baby walkers requires that walkers carry warning labels with many of these messages on them. The standard also requires a separate warning label – easily seen when the consumer places a child in the walker – instructing care givers to block stairs and steps securely before using the walker.



Always watch a child in a baby walker to prevent the child from tipping over or falling down stairs.