



# CPSC Safety Alert

## Seven Hidden Home Hazards

<p><b>#1 Magnets</b></p> <p>An average of more than 2,000 magnet ingestions per year were seen in hospital emergency departments between 2009-11.</p>	<p>Today's rare-earth magnets can be very small and powerful making them popular in children's toys, desk toys, building sets, and jewelry. As the number of products with magnets has increased, so has the number of serious injuries to children. In several hundred incidents, magnets have fallen out of various toys and been swallowed by children. Small intact pieces of building sets that contain magnets have also been swallowed by children. In other cases, young children have gained access to magnetic desk sets and swallowed multiple desks, while tweens and teenagers have attempted to use them as mock nose and lips piercings. If two or more magnets, or a magnet and another metal object are swallowed separately, they can attract to one another through intestinal walls and get trapped in place. The injury is hard to diagnose. Parents and physicians may think that the materials will pass through the child without consequence, but magnets can attract in the body and twist or pinch the intestines, causing holes, blockages, infection, and death, if not treated properly and promptly.</p> <p><b>TIP</b>  Watch carefully for loose magnets and magnetic pieces and keep away from younger children (less than six). Be aware of the serious inhalation and ingestion danger posed to tweens and teenagers who create mock piercings with high powered magnets. If you have a recalled product with magnets, stop using it, call the company today, and ask for the remedy.</p>
<p><b>#2 Recalled Products</b></p> <p>Each year there are at least 400 recalls.</p>	<p>CPSC is very effective at getting dangerous products off store shelves, such as recalled toys, clothing, children's jewelry, tools, appliances, electronics and electrical products. But once a product gets into the home, the consumer has to be on the lookout. Consumers need to be aware of the latest safety recalls to keep dangerous recalled products away from family members.</p> <p><b>TIP</b>  Get dangerous products out of the home. Join CPSC's "Drive To One Million" campaign and follow us on Twitter at @OnSafety or sign up for <b>free</b> e-mail notifications at <a href="http://www.cpsc.gov">www.cpsc.gov</a>—a tweet or e-mail from CPSC is not spam— it could save a life.</p>
<p><b>#3 Tip-overs</b></p> <p>One child dies every two weeks from</p>	<p>Furniture, TVs and ranges can tip over and crush young children. Deaths and injuries occur when children climb onto, fall against or pull themselves up on television stands, shelves, bookcases, dressers, desks, and chests. TVs placed on top of</p>



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<p>tip-over incident involving TVs, furniture or appliances.</p> <p>Three times per hour, 71 times per day, 2,117 times per month, and 25,400 times per year a child is injured in a tip-over incident.</p>	<p>unstable furniture can tip over causing head trauma and other injuries. Items left on top of the TV, furniture, and countertops, such as toys, remote controls and treats might tempt kids to climb.</p> <p><b>TIP</b>  Verify that furniture is stable on its own. Anchor furniture to the floor or attach to a wall and anchor TVs to the wall or the furniture. Free standing ranges and stoves should be installed with anti-tip brackets.</p>
<p><b>#4</b> <b>Windows &amp; Coverings</b></p> <p>Average of 10 deaths annually from window cords;</p> <p>Average of nine deaths and an estimated 4,100 injuries to children annually from window falls.</p>	<p>Children can strangle on window drapery and blind cords that can form a deadly loop. Parents are urged to use cordless blinds or window coverings that have inaccessible cords in homes with young children. Cords and kids are a dangerous combination, so keep them out of the reach of children. As a short-term fix, cut looped cords and install a safety tassel at the end of each pull cord or use a tie-down device, and install inner cord stays to prevent strangulation. Never place a child's crib or playpen within reach of a window blind.</p> <p>The dangers of windows do not end with window coverings and pull cords. Kids love to play around windows. Unfortunately, kids can be injured or die when they fall out of windows. Do not rely on window screens. Window screens are designed to keep bugs out, not to keep kids in.</p> <p><b>TIP</b>  Safeguard your windows: use cordless blinds and shades or window coverings with inaccessible cords, and install window guards or stops today.</p>
<p><b>#5</b> <b>Pool &amp; Spa Drains</b></p> <p>Zero entrapment-related deaths involving children since 2008.</p>	<p>The suction from a pool drain can be so powerful that it can hold an adult under water, but most incidents involve children. The body can become sealed against the drain or hair can be pulled in and tangled. Missing or broken drain covers are a major reason many entrapment incidents occur. Public pool and spa owners and operators must comply with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act and have safer drain covers that prevent entrapment. Many private pools owners have also improved the safety of their pool by having safer drain covers installed. Pools and spas can also have a back-up system that detects when a drain is blocked and automatically shuts off the pool pump or interrupts the water circulation to prevent an entrapment.</p> <p><b>TIP</b>  Before using a public pool or spa, ask the owner or operator if safer drain covers were installed and if the facility complies with federal safety laws. Check to make sure the drain covers are in place and undamaged.</p>



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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>#6</b> <b>Bathtubs</b></p> <p>From 2006-10, there were more than 400 children younger than five who drowned in bathtubs, buckets, bath seats, and toilets.</p>	<p>The danger of drowning for young children is ever present in and around the home. Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional death among children ages one to four years-old, and it takes only a few inches of water for a young child to drown.</p> <p><b>TIP</b>  Never leave young children alone near any water or tub or basin with fluid. Young children can drown in even small amounts of liquid. Always keep a young child within arm's reach in a bathtub. If you must leave, take the child with you. Do not leave a baby or young child in a bathtub under the care of another child. Learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). It can be a lifesaver when seconds count.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>#7</b> <b>Button Batteries</b></p> <p>From 1997-2010, 40,400 battery ingestions by children younger than 13 were seen in hospital emergency departments. A majority of those cases involved button batteries. Button batteries were involved with 12 deaths between 1995-2010.</p>	<p>Small, coin-sized batteries can be found in products in nearly every home in America. From the flashlight sitting on the table, to the remote control next to the TV, "button batteries" as they are commonly referred to, are in thousands of products used in and around the home. Young children are unintentionally swallowing the button batteries and in some cases, the consequences are immediate and devastating.</p> <p><b>TIP</b>  Discard button batteries carefully. Do not allow children to play with button batteries, and keep button batteries out of your child's reach. Keep remotes and other electronics out of your child's reach if the battery compartments do not have a screw to secure them. Use tape to help secure the battery compartment. If a button battery is ingested, immediately seek medical attention. The National Battery Ingestion Hotline is available anytime at (202) 625-3333 or call the Poison Help line at (800) 222-1222.</p>