



SAFE START  
A U S T R A L I A

# CHILDREN'S TOY SAFETY



SPECIALISING IN CHILDHOOD INJURY PREVENTION

# CHILDREN'S TOY SAFETY

When it comes to children's toys there are a few things to consider throughout the selection process. Additionally, if a friend or relative wants to buy your child a gift these practical tips will help keep your children safe.

Play should be fun and is an important part of children's growth and development.

## ASK YOURSELF

**1**

Does the toy meet the current Australian Standards?



**2**

Is the toy age appropriate for my child?



**3**

What is the quality like i.e. could the toy break easily?



**4**

Has the toy ever been recalled?



## NOT RECOMMENDED

- Toys that contain button batteries
- Projectile toys
- Water expanding beads
- Any long string, rope or thread longer than 20/30cm

## AUSTRALIAN STANDARDS

- AS/NZS 8124 – Safety aspects related to mechanical and physical properties
- AS 1900 – Flotation aids for water familiarization and swimming tuition
- A current list of the mandatory standards can be found at **[www.productsafety.gov.au](http://www.productsafety.gov.au)**
- The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) specify that toys containing beads, yo-yo water balls, small high-powered magnets and DEHP in children's plastic items are permanently banned in Australia.

## BATH TOYS

Harmful bacteria can grow from moisture inside bath toys and any toy that allows water inside. Look for toys that are completely sealed or solid.

## BUTTON BATTERIES

Some toys are powered by button batteries. It's important to know that a button battery can be fatal if ingested. Immediate medical attention is required even if the button battery is flat it can still cause serious and irreversible damage.

## BUYING ONLINE

Always do your research when buying online. Just because it's online don't assume it is safe. Check if the toy meets the current Australian Standards.

## HIGH POWERED MAGNETS

High powered neodymium magnets can be 15 times stronger than regular magnets. If more than one magnet is swallowed the magnets can join together in the gastrointestinal tract piercing holes causing life threatening injuries. Immediate medical attention is required if a magnet is ingested or inhaled.

## PLASTIC WRAPPING AND PACKAGING

Dispose of any plastic wrapping or packaging immediately as this can pose a suffocation and choking hazard.

## FLOTATION AND AQUATIC TOYS

Toys that are worn, inflated or attach to the body are NOT safety devices and must be used under close adult supervision.

Review toy recall notices  
and product regulations at:  
**[www.accc.gov.au](http://www.accc.gov.au)**

## RECALLS

To find out if a toy has been recalled go to:

**[www.productsafety.gov.au/recalls](http://www.productsafety.gov.au/recalls)**

You can subscribe to receive updates on the latest recalled products.

## PROJECTILE TOYS

Projectile toys are not recommended for this age group due to the damage they can cause if not used appropriately. Damage to eyes caused by these toys may be irreversible.

## SECOND HAND TOYS

If you are buying second hand or you are given something second hand, make sure it meets the current Australian Standards and that it is age appropriate. Use this information to decide if the toy is safe and still in good working order, check there are no hazards such as sharp edges or loose parts.

## SMALL TOYS OR PARTS

Small toys or parts such as buttons, coins, parts to a board game may have made their way into your Child's toy collection. These pose a choking hazard and need to be removed and either disposed of or securely stored till your child is old enough to play with that item.

A fantastic DIY safety tool has been produced by Product Safety Australia called the "Choke

Check". Once constructed if anything fits through

the cylinder then it is not recommended for a child up to approximately 36 months however, your discretion is recommended.

In addition to toys please be aware that balloons including burst balloons pose a choking hazard.

## STORAGE

Heavy wooden toyboxes must have ventilation holes, children love to hide in small spaces.

Remove lids where possible to remove the risk of jammed fingers, a head knock or suffocation.

## STYROFOAM BEADS

Styrofoam beads are used in bean bags and some toys. If inhaled the Styrofoam can block an airway.

## WATER EXPANDING BEADS

When water is added to the water expanding beads they can increase in size by up to 400 times. The beads are brightly colored, attractive to children, and have been marketed as toys for children. If ingested surgery may be required to remove any obstructions from the gastrointestinal tract



## TOY SAFETY CHECK

It's important to check your children's toys regularly to make sure they are still in good working order and that there are no new hazards such as:

- sharp edges
- broken parts
- paint chipping away
- seams and zippers that might be broken
- fluff or stuffing coming out

If you find anything that is damaged or has broken parts dispose of it appropriately otherwise you may be handing on an accident waiting to happen.

It's amazing what might make its way into your children's toy collection, so it is important to find the time to carry out a safety check!

## SUPERVISION

Supervising your infants and young children while they are playing with their toys is an absolute must.

Make sure you read and understand the manufacturer's instructions for the safe use a product and always make sure your children are using the product as per the manufacturers specifications.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

To report an unsafe product go to

**<https://www.productsafety.gov.au>**

The Australian Toy Association specialise in products for children and family leisure, learning and entertainment **<http://austoy.com.au>**

By taking the time to identify any hazards associated with your children's toys you will be able to manage the risk and your children and will get the most out of their toys at play time.

For any further injury prevention information for your infants and young children visit our website at **[www.safestartaustralia.com.au](http://www.safestartaustralia.com.au)**

*Children are  
fearless and  
explore by  
nature,  
let's make sure  
we are ready!*



**For more information visit [www.safestartaustralia.com.au](http://www.safestartaustralia.com.au)**

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