



# From Cribs To Car Seats ARE YOUR KIDS SAFE?

Use this booklet to check products:



- in your home
- in childcare settings
- in grandparent's, relative's and friend's homes
- when you shop for children's products (new or second-hand)
- if someone gives or lends you a product

This booklet contains only some details about product safety. For more information on product safety, contact Safe Kids Canada at 1-888-SAFE-TIPS (723-3847) or [www.safekidscanada.ca](http://www.safekidscanada.ca)

## Cribs



Cribs made before 1986 are dangerous. Some children have died in older cribs when the part supporting the mattress fell down and they became entrapped. Others died when their head got caught between crib bars. Crib bars should be no more than 6 centimetres (2-3/8 inches) apart.

- Do not use any crib made before 1986. Check the label on your child's crib to see how old it is.
- If your crib does not have a label or is homemade, it may not be safe to use.

## Car Seats & Baby Carriers



Use them safely in your car

- Do not use a second-hand car seat unless you have the instructions and know that it has not been in a crash. It should also have all the parts and a label that says it meets Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.
- Do not use a car seat that is past its expiry date. You may find the expiry date printed right on the car seat or in the instruction booklet. If you can't find an expiry date, call Transport Canada at 1-800-333-0371 for more information.
- Always use the right kind of car seat for your child.

Use them safely in your home

- Keep a car seat or baby carrier on the floor, rather than a table or counter. Babies can rock themselves off the edge or be knocked over.
- Car seats and baby carriers can tip over easily. Do not leave them on soft places like a bed or sofa. Your baby could fall over and be suffocated.
- Do not use a car seat as a crib. Children have died when they slipped down and became tangled in the straps.

## Baby Bath Seats



Many parents like to use a bath seat because it keeps their hands free to wash the baby. But babies left alone in bath seats have drowned. It is never safe to leave a baby alone in the bath, not even for a few seconds. Bath seats are not safety devices.

- Some babies in bath seats almost drowned even when their parents were in the bathroom. This is because the suction cups on the bottom of the bath seats did not stick properly to the bathtubs. The babies fell over into the water.
- Do not use a baby bath seat. It is not a product that you need to look after your baby. It is not worth taking the risk.

## High Chairs, Strollers & Change Tables



Many children are hurt every year from falls.

- Always use the safety straps in your child's stroller and high chair.
- Make sure stroller brakes work. Use them every time you stop your stroller.
- Never leave your child alone on a change table. Keep everything you need right beside you.

## Blind & Curtain Cords



Be sure to use window blinds and curtains safely. Children have died when their heads got caught in the cords.

- Keep your child's crib or bed and other furniture away from the window.
- Cut the pull cords short and tie them up high. Also check the inside cords that hold blind slats in place. If you can pull out a loop of the inside cord longer than 15 centimetres (6 inches), the blind is not safe. Throw it out.

## Baby Walkers with Wheels



Wheeled baby walkers were banned in Canada in 2004 because they cause many serious injuries to children. They are not available for sale in Canada and should not be used.

- Baby walkers will not help your child to walk and will put your child at risk for serious injuries such as falls down stairs.
- Gates at the top of stairs will not always prevent falls in baby walkers. Many falls have occurred when baby gates were left open.
- Most walker injuries happen when a parent is close by. Babies can move very quickly in a walker and can reach items on a table or counter. Babies have been scalded by pulling hot food or drinks onto themselves.

## Baby Gates



Check the age of your baby gate

- Baby gates made before 1990 are dangerous. Do not use them. Children have died when their heads were trapped in the gates. These gates usually have large diamond or “V” shaped openings that could trap your child’s head.

Use the correct type of baby gate at the top of stairs

- Any baby gate at the top of the stairs must be fastened to the wall with screws. Do not use a pressure gate. If your child leans on a pressure gate at the top of stairs, it could fall over and your child could fall down the stairs.

## Playpens



Playpens, although providing a way to separate your child from hazards around your home, may contain hazards of its own.

- Playpens should have mesh sides the size of mosquito type nettings. Larger mesh allows buttons, hooks or strings to be entangled and can cause strangulation.
- Always make sure the sides of the playpen are up and locked into place. Babies can suffocate if they become trapped in the space between the mattress and the mesh.
- Remove toys or change tables from across the top of the playpen when your child starts to stand. These items can fall on top of your child or can be used to climb out.
- Children should be closely supervised when in a playpen.

## Bunk Beds



Children have died using bunk beds that do not meet safety standards. Their heads were caught between parts of the bed. Children can also be badly injured from a fall from the top bunk.

- Do not allow children under 6 years to sleep or play on the top bunk.
- Check your bunk bed for a label that says it meets ASTM safety standards. There are no laws in Canada to stop stores from selling unsafe bunk beds.
- Check the spaces between the guardrails on the top bunk. They should be no more than 9 centimetres or 3-1/2 inches.

## Toy Boxes & Chests



Children have been badly hurt when toy box lids fell on their heads or necks. Children have died when they became trapped inside a chest and could not breathe.

- Use toy boxes or chests that have lightweight lids and hinges that stop the lid from slamming down. Remove the lid if it does not have this kind of hinge.
- Make sure that the toy box or chest has holes in the side or front so that air can get inside.

## Drawstrings on Children's Clothing



- Children have been strangled when the drawstrings on the hoods or necks of their clothing became caught on things.
- Choose clothes without drawstrings at the head and neck. If your child's clothes do have drawstrings, cut them off.

## Check for product recalls



Products are recalled because the company has found something wrong that could be dangerous. To check for recalls on products, contact Consumer Product Safety, Health Canada at [www.healthcanada.gc.ca/cps](http://www.healthcanada.gc.ca/cps) or 1-866-662-0666. If you have concerns about a specific product, contact the manufacturer or check their web site.

