

# Product safety

## Choosing and using safe products for your baby

Babies can suffer serious injuries, illness and even death because they do not know how to identify or understand dangerous situations or do not have the physical skills needed to get out of danger quickly. It is important to ensure that you do not risk your safety or the safety of your family by choosing old, unsafe products.

### Some items not safe for babies

There are some products that are not safe for your baby. These include:

- > antique cots
- > batteries for toys
- > bean bags
- > bunk beds
- > cigarette lighters
- > cot and bed restraints
- > flashing imitation dummies
- > hot water bottles
- > toys for children over three years of age
- > toys with small magnets
- > trampolines
- > treadmills
- > very old furniture and toys

### Safety tips for commonly used baby products

#### Cots

Children can suffer serious injuries related to a cot.

- > Always follow the instructions carefully when assembling a cot
- > Use a firm mattress that fits snugly into the base of the cot
- > Place the cot in a safe spot away from dangers such as electrical appliances, windows and blind cords
- > Never put pillows, toys, electric blankets or hot water bottles in the cot.

#### Curtain and blind cords

Young children have died after becoming tangled in curtain and blind cords.

- > Check your windows and fix all long, loose or looped cords so they are out of reach
- > Keep your children away from all cords
- > Never leave children alone in a room with cords they can reach.

#### Prams and strollers

Death or serious injury can occur if carers lose control of the pram or stroller.

- > Always park the pram or stroller parallel to hazards, such as water or railway tracks so it can't roll into danger
- > Use the parking brake when the pram or stroller is not moving
- > Use the wrist strap and harness
- > Never hang shopping bags on the handles, as these can tip the pram or stroller over.

#### Child car restraints (car seats)

Generally, children up to seven years of age must travel in a car fitted with a dedicated child restraint or booster seat.

- > Install the restraint at an approved fitting station
- > Use the restraint as shown in the instructions
- > Choose the correct restraint for your child's size
- > Do not leave children unattended in a car.

## Tips for buying second-hand baby products

Always check that the product:

- > comes with full instructions for assembly and use
- > is strong and stable
- > has all parts and works correctly
- > has no tears, sharp edges or points
- > has had no changes made from its original condition that will make it unsafe; for example, the wrong size mattress in a cot
- > has no history of being in an accident or being damaged
- > can be fixed, if necessary, by the original supplier.

The *Keeping baby safe* booklet provides some easy steps you can take to ensure your baby remains safe in your home. It shows you what to look for when purchasing infant and nursery products, as well as tips on how to use these products safely. If you have children under five years of age in your home, contact the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission on 1300 305 502 to order your copy.



For more information, contact your local consumer protection agency.

### Australian Capital Territory

Office of Regulatory Services T. (02) 6207 3000  
ors.act.gov.au

### New South Wales

NSW Fair Trading T. 13 32 20  
fairtrading.nsw.gov.au

### Northern Territory

ACCC Darwin office T. (08) 8946 9666  
productsafety.gov.au

### Queensland

Office of Fair Trading T. 13 74 68  
fairtrading.qld.gov.au

### South Australia

Consumer and Business Services T. 131 882  
cbs.sa.gov.au

### Tasmania

Consumer Affairs and Fair Trading T. 1300 65 44 99  
consumer.tas.gov.au

### Victoria

Consumer Affairs Victoria T. 1300 55 81 81  
consumer.vic.gov.au

### Western Australia

Consumer Protection T. 1300 30 40 54  
commerce.wa.gov.au/consumerprotection

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has national responsibilities for competition, fair trading and consumer protection and can be contacted on 1300 302 502 or visit [productsafety.gov.au](http://productsafety.gov.au).