

Toy Safety Guidelines

From Michael Morse, PC Attorneys at Law

The most important thing a parent can do is supervise play.

PROTECT YOUR KIDS FROM UNSAFE TOYS

Millions of toys are recalled every year for hazards ranging from lead paint to detachable parts that may cause choking.

LOOK FOR LABELS

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) www.cpsc.gov requires toy makers to meet stringent safety standards.

- Toys that could be dangerous to younger children must be labeled.
- Use age recommendations as a guide.
- Know your children's abilities and interests and match them to toys, regardless of age recommendations.
- Crayons or paint packages should say ASTM D-4236. They've been evaluated by the American Society for Testing and Materials.

MOST DANGEROUS TOYS (Source: CPSC - Based on numbers recalled)

- **Toys with strong magnets** that can be swallowed by kids. May cause internal injuries, especially if two magnets are swallowed.
- **Remote-controlled toys** have batteries that may overheat, causing fires, burns and explosions.
- **Toys with small parts** may come loose and cause choking or interfere with breathing.

LOOK FOR THESE FEATURES WHEN TOY SHOPPING

- Fabric toys should be labeled flame resistant or flame retardant
- Stuffed toys should be washable
- Painted toys should have ONLY lead-free paint
- Art materials should say nontoxic
- Avoid older toys, even hand-me-downs., that may not meet current safety standards or be worn so they can break and become hazardous
- Make sure a toy isn't too loud. The noise of some toys can be as loud as a car horn and can contribute to hearing damage
- Don't buy toys they'll "grow into"

AFTER YOU BUY

- Don't let younger kids play with toys meant for older kids or adults
- Test toy parts to see if they're small enough to swallow. Use a regular toilet paper roll (1½-inches wide) to measure. If any toy parts fit inside the roll, put the toy away until your child is older than three
- Store adult games, like darts, up high, out of children's reach
- Remove and discard plastic wrapping and bags as soon as the toy is opened. They're suffocation hazards to young children.