

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Using Play Equipment & Buying Toys

This fact sheet has been produced to assist parents and carers with child safety.

- Check the temperature of surfaces BEFORE allowing children to play on playground equipment.
- Metal slippery slides can burn.
- Metal and plastic outdoor toys may also retain heat from the sun and can burn.
- Check for sharp edges or rough surfaces as they can cause cuts and splinters.
- Buy washable, non-breakable toys for babies.
- **Anything small enough to fit into a 35mm film canister can choke a child under three years old.**
- Toy chests and boxes should be designed not to close on top of children, or better still with a removable lid. Anything big enough to crawl inside must have ventilation holes.
- Read the age labelling on new toys. "Not suitable for children under three" means that there are small parts which could be swallowed; it is not an indication of skill level or intelligence.
- Check toys regularly for loose parts which may be choking dangers.
- If buying a projectile toy, only choose ones that have soft, one-piece darts or non-removable suction caps.
- Be wary of toys that make loud noises as they can be harmful to hearing. Particularly toys which are held against the ear, such as walkie talkies and toy mobile phones.
- Check for ventilation before buying tents, masks, helmets etc.
- Ensure that ride-on toys are appropriate to the age of the child and are stable. Toy bikes should have effective brakes which can be applied by the rider.
- Check that there are no gaps or holes which could entrap a child's fingers.

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