

TOY SAFETY TIPS

As the holiday season approaches, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) urges gift-givers to keep safety in mind when choosing toys for young children. The CPSC has the most stringent toy safety standards in the world, and toys on store shelves are safer because of the day-to-day compliance work by the CPSC.

The following tips will help consumers choose appropriate toys this holiday season and all year round:

- * Select toys to suit the age, abilities, skills, and interest level of the intended child; Toys too advanced may pose safety hazards to younger children
- * For infants, toddlers, and all children who still mouth objects, avoid toys with small parts which could pose a fatal choking hazard
- * Look for sturdy construction, such as tightly secured eyes, noses, and other potential small parts
- * For all children under age 8, avoid toys that have sharp edges and points
- * Do not purchase electric toys with heating elements for children under age 8
- * Be a label reader. Look for labels that give age recommendations and use that information as a guide
- * Check instructions for clarity; They should be clear to you, and when appropriate, to the child
- * Immediately discard plastic wrappings on toys, which can cause suffocation, before they become deadly playthings

By using common sense and these safety suggestions, holiday shoppers can make informed decisions when purchasing toys for children.