

SAFETY MATTERS



December 2021

Toy Safety Tips

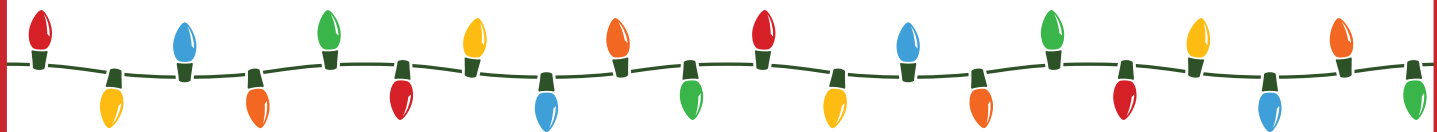
The holiday gift buying is in full swing, and you may be considering what toys to buy for the children on your list. Before you purchase, make sure the toy is safe and age appropriate. Thousands of children are seriously injured in toy-related incidents every year. Avoid safety hazards while gifting with these tips from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission:

- Toys are age related for safety, not for children's intellect or physical ability
- Choose toys for children under 3 that do not have small parts
- For children under 10, avoid toys that must be plugged into an electrical outlet
- Be cautious with button batteries or magnets; these can be harmful if swallowed
- When giving riding toys, include appropriate safety gear

Danger of Fire Starters

As winter approaches and the weather outside turns colder, relaxing in front of a warm fireplace or enjoying the natural glow of a candle is a cozy way to spend an evening. However, the NSC reminds us that the seasonal decorations in our homes during the holidays means more risk for fire. The National Fire Protection Association reports that one-third of home decoration fires are started by candles, and that two of every five decoration fires happened because the decorations are placed too close to a heat source. Here are a few things to keep in mind: place candles where they cannot be knocked over; keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet; use flameless candles rather than lighted ones; don't burn trees, wreaths, or wrapping paper in fireplace; check chimney once a year; and use a fireplace screen at all times when a fire is burning.

Decorate Safely



Seasonal decorations including lights, Christmas trees, and wreaths can put your family in the holiday spirit. However, when not used properly, decorations can create safety hazards or cause fires. According to the National Safety Council (NSC), emergency rooms see thousands of injuries caused by decorating every season. When decorating follow these few tips from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission:

- If using an artificial tree, check that it is labeled "fire resistant"
- If using a live tree, cut off 2 inches of the trunk to help water absorption
- Place tree at least 3 feet away from fireplaces or radiators, and do not block doorways
- Only use indoor lights indoors, and outdoor lights outdoors; be sure to choose the right ladder
- Replace lights sets that have broken or cracked sockets, or bare wires
- Turn off all lights and decorations when you leave the house or go to bed

