



December 2013

YOU SHOULD KNOW

IN THIS ISSUE

/

Six Tips for Safe Toys
Dangerous Toy Lists
Dr. Toy's 100 Best



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Dear Jessica,

The decorations are up, the festivities are in full swing, and the holiday spirit is in the air. Before you finalize your gift shopping, please take a minute to browse these tips on safe toys. We wish you and your family a safe and joyous holiday!



THE DOCKET /

> CHECK OUT OUR BETTER HEALTH CARE NEWSLETTER.

Too Many Dangerous Toys Still on Store Shelves

6 Tips to Shopping Smart for Safe Toys this Holiday Season

We can always count on children to remind us of the true joy associated with the holiday season. So it's up to us – parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, friends and family – to keep that spirit alive by selecting safe toys for the kids in our lives.

Unfortunately, making a list and checking it twice for safety is not always easy. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) does not test all toys, and not all toys in stores or online meet CPSC standards.

Trouble in Toyland, the definitive annual survey from the U.S. Public Interest Research Group, identified numerous toys out there right now that are toxic, create choking or strangulation hazards, are too loud or present other dangers.

While supervision is still the best bet to prevent childhood injuries, our hope is that being an informed shopper will help ensure a festive holiday for you and yours. [Unwrap our six tips here.](#)



Protect the Joy in a Child's Holiday Smile
Select safe toys for the kids in your life. [More.](#)

BY THE NUMBERS /

265,000 Injuries

There were 265,000 toy-related injuries and 11 deaths in 2012. Riding toys and asphyxiation (often from choking on balloons or small parts) were the leading causes of death, while non-motorized scooters caused the most injuries.

Source: *Toy-Related Deaths and Injuries 2012*,

> LATEST NEWS FROM OUR PATIENT SAFETY BLOG

> CHILD SAFETY TIPS AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION FROM OUR CHILD PROTECTION BLOG

> MALPRACTICE A-Z: ANSWERS ON SPECIFIC TOPICS

[CPSC \(download\)](#)

9.8 Million Toys

More than 9.8 million dangerous toys were seized at ports throughout the United States during the past five years. So far in 2013, there have been recalls on 31 toys compared to 93 in 2007.

Source: [Global System of Toy Safety Works, CPSC and U.S. Customs](#)

1,700 Swallowed

Between 2009 and 2011, the CPSC reported that kids and infants swallowed an estimated 1,700 magnets, which can cause life-threatening damage to the stomach and intestines. *Consumer Reports* called for a ban on super-strong magnets.

Source: [Safety First When Buying Toys, Consumer Reports](#)

BOOKMARK FAVORITES /

[Parents Magazine Lists Toy Recalls for 2013](#)

Parents.com lists recent [recalls](#) for children's toys, including the name, brand, date it was recalled, the danger and where it was sold. There is also a helpful link for each recall titled, "I own this product. Now what?"

[Look Up More Toys on Safer Product Database](#)

[SaferProducts.gov](#) was created so the public can report harm caused by toys and other consumer products. The CPSC [toy page](#) also provides safety alerts, buying guides, posters, brochures and other materials you can use to shop smart and help spread the word.

[And Here's How to Find that Perfect Toy](#)

The *Good Housekeeping* Research Institute tested 150 products and named the [Best Toy Awards for 2013](#) based on innovation, safety and skill-building. Also consider the [Dr. Toy iPhone app](#) and browse toys by award, skill, type, age or price to find the ideal gift.



The 10 Worst Toys of All Time

Beads that turn into the "date-rape drug" when ingested; dolls with mechanical jaws that eat fingers; science kits shipped with deadly uranium: these are all toys selected by Take Justice Back as the worst of the worst.

[See list](#)



Exclusive Interview with Dr. Toy

Dr. Stevanne Auerbach, known widely as "Dr. Toy," is a leading expert on play, toys and children's products. Parents, teachers and toy buyers all use Dr. Toy's guidance in selecting great toys.

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