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SAFETY COMMISSION

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NANCY NORD
ACTING CHAIRMAN

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COMMISSIONER

CONTENTS

PAGE 1

Letter from the Chairman

PAGE 2

Pool Safety

PAGE 3

Bicycle Safety Month

PAGE 4

Counterfeits Can Kill

PAGE 5

Recall Spotlight

PAGE 6

Recent Recalls

QUICK LINKS

What's Popular

Report Injuries

CPSC Homepage



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From the Chairman: Prevent Drowning

June is the start of summer and that means families are headed to the pool. But all pools, everything from small backyard inflatables to commercial water parks, are dangerous and tempting to young kids. There are about 300 pool and spa related fatalities per year for children younger than five years of age. To protect your loved ones from drowning, keep in mind a few things:

Have Layers of Protection: Barriers, such as a fence with self-closing, self-latching gates, completely surrounding pools prevent unsupervised access by young children. If the house forms a side of the barrier, use alarms on doors leading to the pool area and/or a power safety cover over the pool.

Beware of Entrapments: Suction drains in pools and spas can cause entrapments involving hair, body parts, clothing and jewelry, which can lead to death and serious injury. The suction can be so powerful that it can hold an adult under water, but most entrapment incidents involve children. Do not allow children to play in a pool or hot tub/spa with missing or broken drain covers.

Look in the Pool First: Precious time is often wasted looking for missing children anywhere but in the pool. Since every second counts, always look for a missing child in the pool or spa first. Be prepared for an emergency by having rescue equipment and a phone near the pool. Also, parents should learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

Drowning is Silent: Parents may think that if their child falls in the water, they will hear lots of splashing and screaming, and that they will be able to come to the rescue. Many times, however, children slip under the water silently. Even people in the pool have reported hearing nothing out of the ordinary during drowning incidents.

Never leave a child unattended – even for a minute – with access to a pool, spa, bathtub or bucket. If you have to leave, designate a “Water Watcher”, someone who can concentrate on kids in the water without distraction.

Nancy Nord
Acting Chairman



What do you need for a fun and safe summer at the pool?

- Sunscreen?
- Towels?
- Pool toys?
- Swim lessons?
- ASME/ANSI A112.19.8–2007 compliant drain covers?

What is this?

While the drain covers at your local pool might be the last thing on your mind when you head to the pool, new designs and technologies in drain covers can keep your kids safe. Children have died from being held underwater by the suction of a pool's drain, pinned against the drain cover. Newer, specially-designed covers can protect swimmers from the powerful suction of a pool's drain that can trap hair and body parts.

With the passage of the [Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act](#) in 2008, every public pool or spa in the U.S. must have compliant anti-entrapment drain covers by the time they open for the 2009 season.

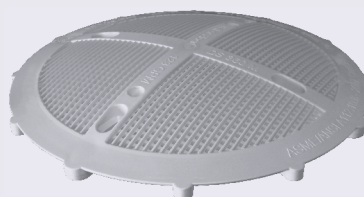
So what can you do?

WARN children about the dangers of drains. Tell your kids not to sit on or play near the pool's drains. Open, loose or damaged drain covers should be brought to the attention of the pool's manager.

ASK your pool's manager if the pool has drain covers that comply with the new law, especially in areas where small children have access, like wading pools, in-ground spas and pool areas designed for children.

This drain cover is one of many examples of new products designed to prevent drain entrapments. It has:

- A design that helps prevent blockage;
- Small openings to prevent hair, finger, toe and jewelry entrapment and entanglement; and
- Recessed screw holes to prevent tampering.





This is How We Roll

May is **Bicycle Safety Month** and the Consumer Product Safety Commission wants to remind parents that this is the time to reinforce safe riding habits and to make sure everyone wears protective gear – especially a helmet.

Helmets can prevent serious head injuries and brain damage, and are an important part of bike safety for all ages. All bicycle helmets must meet certain safety criteria – look for a label or sticker that says the helmet meets the CPSC standard.



A safe helmet is one that fits right, is in good condition, and is appropriate for the activity. Sit the helmet evenly between your ears and flat on your head. Tighten the chin strap and adjust the pads inside so it feels snug and secure and doesn't move up-and-down or from side-to-side. There should be two finger widths above your eyebrows.

Did you know?



About **800** people are killed in bicycle-related crashes each year.



About **70%** of all fatal bicycle crashes involve head injuries, yet only about **20–25%** of all bicyclists wear helmets.



A bicycle helmet can reduce the risk of a head injury by up to **85%**.

Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration



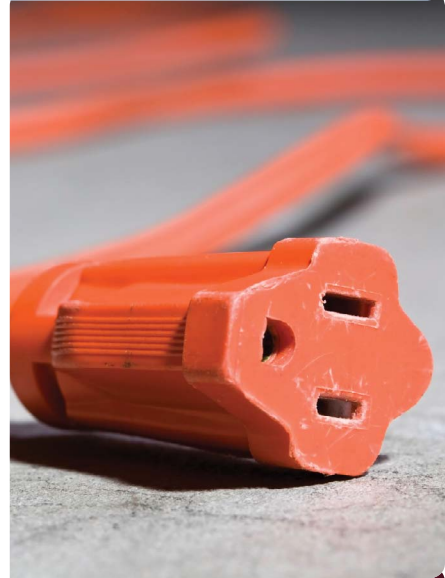
Counterfeits Can Kill

Tough economic times may send consumers scouring for inexpensive goods, but consumers may unknowingly be buying counterfeit products. We may be familiar with counterfeit handbags and watches, but there's a category of counterfeits that can have dire consequences – electrical products. They may look like the real thing on the outside, but the reality is many of these products are made with inferior materials, poor quality construction, and/or missing safety features. Counterfeit circuit breakers, power strips, extension cords, batteries and holiday lights can cause fires, explosions, shocks and electrocutions. Unlike other counterfeit products, counterfeit electrical goods can be extremely difficult to detect.

CPSC urges consumers to stay away from counterfeit electrical goods and follow these tips to help avoid hazards:

- **Scrutinize the product, and its packaging and labeling.** Look for a certification mark from an independent testing organization. Some certification labels include a logo and a reference number. Trademarked logos that look different than usual may signal a counterfeit.
- **Trust your instincts.** If the price is “too good to be true”, it could be because the product is an inferior and unsafe counterfeit.
- **Be extra vigilant** when buying from an unknown source such as a street vendor, non-authorized dealer, or an individual. Ask about the return policy. Get a receipt. Businesses selling counterfeit goods often don't report their sales.
- **Stay informed.** Sign up for CPSC **e-mail alerts**, so when a dangerous counterfeit product is recalled, you'll know about it right away.
- **Report safety-related incidents** to the manufacturer or CPSC.

May is **Electrical Safety Month**. Visit CPSC's Web site for additional electrical safety information, or Electrical Safety Foundation International's Web site at www.electrical-safety.org.





RECALL SPOTLIGHT

Evenflo Recalls Envision™ High Chairs Due to Fall and Choking Hazards



Name of Product: Evenflo Envision™ High Chairs

Units: About 643,000

Manufacturer: Evenflo Company Inc., of Miamisburg, Ohio

Hazard: Recline fasteners and metal screws on both sides of the high chair can loosen and fall out, allowing the seatback to detach or

recline unexpectedly. Children can fall backwards or fall out of the high chair and suffer bumps and bruises to the head, abrasions, cuts and bruises. Detached hardware also poses a choking hazard to children.

Incidents/Injuries: Evenflo has received 320 reports of seatbacks detaching or reclining unexpectedly, resulting in 19 reports of bumps and bruises to the head and 35 reports of other injuries including abrasions, pinches and bruises. Evenflo has also received 13 reports of recline fasteners and screws falling out of the high chair, resulting in one incident in which a fastener and/or screws were found in a child’s hand or mouth but were removed before choking occurred.

Description: The recall involves all Evenflo Envision™ high chairs, including model numbers: 2891321, 2891321A, 2891333, 2891351, 2891351A, 2891365, 2891375, 2891403, 2891403A, 2891466, 2891466A, 2891478, 2891536, 2891536A, 2891573, 2891586, 2892351 and 2892351A. The model number can be found on a white label on the seatback. “Evenflo” and “Envision” are printed on the front of the tray.

Sold at: Juvenile product and mass merchandise stores nationwide, including Toys’R’Us, Babies’R’Us, K-Mart and Burlington Coat Factory from December 2002 through April 2006 for between \$80 and \$110.

Manufactured in: China

Remedy: Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled high chairs and contact Evenflo to receive a free repair kit.

For additional information, contact Evenflo at (800) 233-5921 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit the firm’s Web site at www.evenflo.com.

Evenflo is also expanding its recall of Majestic™ High Chairs. The firm is recalling about 90,000 Majestic™ High Chairs (95,000 were recalled in December 2008). Plastic caps and metal screws on both sides of the high chair can loosen and fall out, allowing the seatback to suddenly fall back or detach from the high chair. Children can fall backwards or fall out of the high chair and suffer bumps and bruises to the head, broken bones, abrasions, cuts and bruises. Detached hardware also poses a choking hazard to children.



SIGN UP for recalls



Sign up for this FREE resource! Signing up is easy, it’s fast, and it could save your life or the life of a family member. Simply provide us with your e-mail address, and start receiving important information today. As soon as there’s a recall, you’ll know about it.

SIGN UP NOW



RECENT RECALLS



Educational Craft Kits

FloraCraft Corp., of Ludington, Michigan, is recalling about 930,000 Solar System Kits and DNA Kits. The surface coating on the educational kit's wires can contain excessive levels of lead, violating the federal lead paint standard.



Propane Gas

Valero Marketing & Supply Co., of San Antonio, Texas, is announcing a recall to inspect about 919,000 barrels of propane (LP) gas. An odorant is added to propane to help alert customers to a propane gas leak, but this propane might not have the recommended level of odorant. Failure to detect leaking gas can present a fire, explosion or thermal burn hazard to consumers.



Children's Flip Flops

Alpargatas USA Inc., of New York, New York, is recalling about 210,000 Children's Flip Flops. Decorative paint on the sole of the flip flops can contain levels of lead in excess of the federal standard.



Infant Toys

Infantino LLC, of San Diego, California, is recalling about 172,000 (in the United States) and 12,000 (in Canada) Infant Toys. The infant toys have blue metallic fabric that can detach from the toy, posing a choking hazard to young children.



Toy Bears

State Farm, of Bloomington, Illinois, is recalling about 800,000 (in the United States) and 27,000 (in Canada) State Farm Good Neigh Bears. The eyes on these bears can come off, posing a choking hazard to young children.



Cordless Stick Vacuums

Electrolux Home Care Products Inc., of Bloomington, Illinois, is recalling about 320,000 Ergorapido, Pronto and Precision Vacuums. The vacuum's battery can expand and burst, posing a risk of injury to the user and bystanders.



Fire Extinguishers

Walter Kidde Portable Equipment Inc., of Mebane, North Carolina, is recalling about 167,000 Kidde XL Fire Extinguishers. The pressurized cylinders in the recalled fire extinguishers could lose pressure and fail to operate. In the event of a fire, this failure could put a consumer and property at risk.



Home Gyms

Nautilus Inc., of Vancouver, Washington, is recalling about 78,000 Bowflex® Ultimate 2 Home Gyms (about 68,000 home gyms were recalled on December 6, 2007). The home gym's horizontal seat rail is designed to be latched in a vertical position for storage. If the seat rail is not manually latched, it can fall unexpectedly on the user or a bystander, posing a risk of serious injury.



Holiday Lights

Universal Distribution Center LLC, of Edison, New Jersey, is recalling about 52,000 Holiday Ultra-Brite Lights. The lights have undersized wires that can easily pull out of the plugs and light sockets, becoming exposed. This poses an electric shock and fire hazard to consumers.



Clothing Irons

Conair Corporation, of Stamford, Connecticut, is recalling about 45,000 Clothing Irons. The clothing iron can overheat, posing a fire hazard to consumers.



For the latest recalls from around the Federal Government.