



HOLIDAY SHOPPING: PRODUCT SAFETY

by Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott

WITH THE HOLIDAY SHOPPING RUSH underway, Texans are understandably concerned about product safety. Though most consumer products are safe when used properly, Texans are encouraged to regularly check the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Web site at www.cpsc.gov to make sure they do not have items that could pose a danger to themselves or their children.

CPSC regulates the safety of over 15,000 different kinds of consumer products. The federal agency regularly tests consumer products to ensure they are safe and issues warnings whenever products do not meet certain safety standards.

Many of the alerts posted by CPSC involve toys, car seats and other items for children. In November, for example, CPSC recalled 2.1 million baby cribs after receiving more than 100 complaints about drop-

side detachment incidents. When the drop-side detaches, it creates space between the drop-side and the crib mattress, posing a suffocation hazard to children.

When a recall is issued, Texans should stop using the product and remove it from their homes. The product's manufacturer often provides information about replacing a recalled product or obtaining a voucher for a replacement item. The recalled stroller's manufacturer provided purchasers with a free repair kit.

Parents and grandparents might be particularly interested in the "Toys" and "Child Products" section of the CPSC Web site, which provides information on recent recalls. To ensure they are notified when a manufacturer issues a recall, buyers should always return warranty and product registration forms after

purchasing new toys. If manufacturers do not receive the registration forms, they do not know to include the purchaser on a notification list.

Texas shoppers with video games on their families holiday shopping list should also pay careful attention to the Entertainment Software Rating Board's age and content ratings when purchasing computer and video games. ESRB ratings are an effective and informative resource that allows parents to evaluate whether video game content is appropriate for their child.

Texans with product safety concerns may contact the Office of the Attorney General at (800) 252-8011 or online at www.texasattorneygeneral.gov. We will gladly help residents find federal, state and local resources that will assist them in gathering critical information about a product's safety record or reporting their concerns.

POINTS TO REMEMBER



PRODUCT SAFETY

- Check the Consumer Product and Safety Commission Web site regularly for information about recent product recalls.
- Return warranty and product registration forms to the manufacturers to ensure recall notices.
- Examine toys regularly for damage that could create small pieces that are choking hazards.
- Ensure that children play with age-appropriate toys and electronic games.

Consumer Product and Safety Commission (CPSC)

Information about dangerous and recalled consumer goods and household items, including toys, electronics, sporting goods and many other products
Hotline: (800) 638-2772 • www.cpsc.gov

Office of the Attorney General

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