



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
December 5, 2024

Contact: Kim Y. Hylander
Senior Communications Analyst
Office: 703-792-6162
Email: khylander@pwcgov.org

December is Safe Toys and Gifts Month
Choose the Appropriate Toy for the Appropriate Age

December is Safe Toys and Gifts Month. The Prince William County Fire and Rescue System, in conjunction with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, urges individuals to carefully select toys prior to purchase to reduce toy-related injuries and deaths. During the holiday season and throughout the year, follow these simple safety tips when purchasing toys:

- Check the label: Choose age-appropriate toys by reading the age label on the toy.
- Children younger than 3 should not have access to toys with small parts, which can cause choking. Also avoid marbles and small balls for children under 3.
- Get safety gear: With scooters and other riding toys, supervision is key along with proper safety gear that includes helmets. Helmets should always be worn properly and should be sized to fit. Avoid riding a scooter on a street or roadway with other motor vehicles.
- Hoverboards: Although not considered a toy, hoverboards should be compliant with UL 2272 certification. Be sure to purchase from a retailer that requires UL certification as standard. Hoverboards that don't have this certification should be avoided.
- Be careful with magnets: High powered magnet sets are dangerous and should be kept away from children under 14. Building and play sets with small magnets should also be kept away from small children.

Once Gifts Are Open

- **IMMEDIATELY** discard plastic wrappings from toys.
- Keep toys for older children away from younger children.
- Pay attention to instructions and warnings on battery chargers.
 - Battery charging should be supervised by adults.
 - Chargers and adapters can pose thermal burn hazards to young children.
 - Some chargers lack any mechanism to prevent overcharging.
- Keep button batteries away from younger children.
 - A child can swallow a button battery and suffer dangerous chemical burns in as little as two hours. **DO NOT** leave products with accessible button batteries within reach of children.

-more-

December 5, 2024

December is Safe Toys and Gifts Month – Choose the Appropriate Toy for the Appropriate Age
Page 2

Checking It Twice

Before discarding that gift list, make sure items purchased **DO NOT** appear on the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's recalled toys or children's products list [cpsc.gov/Recalls](https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls). Throughout the year, consumers should always check their homes and toy boxes for previously recalled toys as well.

To receive recall e-mail notification, visit U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission [cpsc.gov/Newsroom/Subscribe](https://www.cpsc.gov/Newsroom/Subscribe) or call their toll-free hotline (800) 638-CPSC (2772) (TTY 800-638-8270) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

To report an unsafe product, visit [saferproducts.gov](https://www.saferproducts.gov).

For additional information on toy safety tips for families and gift-givers visit [pirg.org/edfund/resources/trouble-in-toyland-tips-for-families/](https://www.pirg.org/edfund/resources/trouble-in-toyland-tips-for-families/).

-end-