

Fact Sheet

Toys, play and fun are important parts of a happy and healthy childhood. Choosing toys for children can be difficult, but it is important to choose carefully as toys that are not safe or suitable for your child's age and stage of development can result in injury.

Steps to choosing safer toys

1. Follow the age recommendation

Toys are graded for particular ages according to a child's stage of development. For example, a toy marked as not suitable for a child under 3 years may have small parts which could be a choking hazard for young children.

2. Read the label and instructions

Check that the toy is non-toxic, non-flammable and has the distributor's contact details.

3. Consider the design of the toy

Avoid toys that have explosive or projectile parts, loud toys that could damage hearing and toys with long strings or ribbons – these should be less than 30cm in length.

4. Inspect the quality of the toy

Toys that are poorly constructed can break easily with normal play. This could be a choking hazard to young children if the pieces are small.

5. Avoid toys with batteries and magnets

These products can be dangerous if swallowed and cause severe and lifelong consequences.

Toy maintenance

It is important to keep in mind that toys can deteriorate and become unsafe over time. Make sure you check toys regularly to ensure they are still safe. If toys are faulty make sure you return them to retailers.

Storing toys safely

Only let children have access to toys that do not require supervision. All others should be kept out of their reach and out of sight, and only provided when the child can be properly supervised. If using a toy box to store toys, make sure that a child cannot get trapped inside. Try to find one without a lid, or one with a lightweight, removable lid without a lock.

Australian Standard for toys

The Australian Standard for Toys AS8124 covers requirements for design, construction, materials, test methods and labelling of toys.

For information on toy standards visit the ACCC Product Safety Australia website:
www.productsafety.gov.au/



Checklist

Toy safety

	Yes	No
Are children's toys suitable for their age?	☐	☐
Have you looked at the safety/warning label on each toy?	☐	☐
Have you looked at the ACCC website to see any product recalls?	☐	☐
Have you kept toys for older children separate from toys aimed at younger children?	☐	☐
Have toys with small high-powered magnets been removed from the play space?	☐	☐
Have you checked that small magnets in toys such as figurines, letters and numbers are securely attached and cannot come off easily?	☐	☐
Have water beads kept out of sight and reach of young children?	☐	☐
Are small wheel devices (skateboards, scooters, bikes) gifted with safety equipment?	☐	☐
Are play areas kept away from the driveway and road?	☐	☐
Have you removed strings or cords longer than 30cm from the toy?	☐	☐
Have you checked that the toy is non-toxic and non-flammable?	☐	☐

Button batteries

	Yes	No
Have you secured and tightened the battery compartment of any toys with batteries?	☐	☐
Do you keep new and used batteries out of sight and reach of children at all times?	☐	☐
Do you have the Poisons Information Line saved in your phone? (13 11 26)	☐	☐
Have you looked at the ACCC website for product recalls before purchasing?	☐	☐



Checklist

Toy storage

- Does your toy box come without a lid or if it does, is the lid removable?
- Does the toy box have stoppers inside of the lid to make a gap of 1.5cm or more when the lid is closed?
- If the toy box has a lock, can it be opened from the inside?
- Does the toy box have ventilation holes?

Yes	No
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐

Pools

- Are children supervised at all times when using an inflatable pool or in a swimming pool?
- Have you emptied the portable pool when not in use?
- Is your portable pool stores away from young children when not in use?
- Are children supervised by an ADULT at all times?
- Are pools with a depth of 300mm fenced with a self-closing, self-latching fence?
- Does your portable come with safety and warning labels?

Yes	No
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐

Trampolines

- Have you followed the manufacturers installations recommendations when assembling?
- Have you set safety rules with your children before playing?
- Are children supervised by an adult?
- Do you regularly check the trampoline for wear and tear and signs of damage?
- Have you ensured there are no hazards surrounding the trampoline?

Yes	No
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐



Checklist

Motorised scooter/eRideables

	Yes	No
Have you looked through the Road Safety Commission website before purchasing these products?	☐	☐
Do you know the difference between an e-rideable and a motorised scooter?	☐	☐
Are children supervised by an adult?	☐	☐
Have you spoken to the retailer before purchasing these products to ensure they are age appropriate?	☐	☐
Have you spoken with your child about safety rules before gifting these products?	☐	☐
Have you provided helmets and protective gear when gifting these products?	☐	☐
Are these products stored and charged correctly to avoid lithium-ion battery fires?	☐	☐

Consider making changes to items that received a NO response. If you are still unsure, conduct a safety audit to identify the safety hazards for both you and your children.

IN AN EMERGENCY, CONTACT 000

Further information

Road Safety Commission

www.wa.gov.au/organisation/road-safety-commission/erideable-definitions-and-buying-guide

Kidsafe WA

www.kidsafewa.com.au/resources

ACCC (Product Safety)

www.productsafety.gov.au/consumers/play-and-exercise-safely/play-with-kids-toys-safely

Royal Life Saving Society WA

www.royallifesavingwa.com.au

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