## Helpful Links and Contact Information

*Information about Toy Recalls:*

To subscribe to e-mailed recall list:
http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.aspx

Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)
Recall Hotline: (800) 638-2772

CPSC Western Regional Center
(510) 637 - 4050

*Information on Drug and Food Safety:*

Food and Drug Administration: www.fda.gov
Centers for Disease Control: www.cdc.gov,
1-800-311-3435
National Institutes of Health: www.nih.gov
California Poison Action Line: 1-800-222-1222

*Back to Sleep: Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)*
800-505-CRIB
800-505-2742

*Child Health and Human Development*
Bilingual staff available for information in English and Spanish
800-370-2943
888-320-6942 (TTY)

*Women's Health*
301-496-8176

*National Women's Health Information*
800-994-9662 888-220-5446 (TTD)

*Santa Clara County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program*
(408) 494-7435
For email inquiries:
leadposion@hhs.co.santa-clara.ca.us

# Toy Safety Guide for the 2007 Holiday Season

## Guidelines for Safe Toys:

*(Based on 2006 Consumer Product Safety Commission Guidelines)*

- Magnets – For children under age six, avoid building sets with small magnets.
- Small Parts – For children younger than age three, avoid toys with small parts, which can cause choking.
- Ride-on Toys – Riding toys, skateboards and in-line skates go fast and falls could be deadly. Helmets and safety gear should be sized to fit.
- Projectile Toys – Projectile toys such as air rockets, darts and sling shots are for older children. Improper use of these toys can result in serious eye injuries.
- Chargers and Adapters – Charging batteries should be supervised by adults. Chargers and adapters can pose thermal burn hazards to children.

## CPSC also recommends using the following tips to help choose appropriate toys for children:

- Be a label reader. Look for toy labels that give age and safety recommendations and use that information as a guide.
- Select toys to suit the age, abilities, skills and interest level of the intended child. Look for sturdy construction, such as tightly-secured eyes, noses and other potential small parts.
- For all children under 8 years of age, avoid toys that have sharp edges and points.

*Compliments of*
*Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren (D-16)*
*635 North First Street, Suite B*
*San Jose, CA 95112*
*(408) 271-8700*
*www.lofgren.house.gov*

## Once the gifts are open:

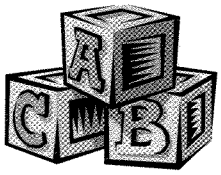
• Immediately discard plastic wrappings on toys before they become dangerous play things.

• Keep toys appropriate for older children away from younger siblings or neighbors.

• Pay attention to instructions and warnings on battery chargers. Some chargers lack any device to prevent overcharging.

## Possible Symptoms of Lead Poisoning in Children

- Decreased appetite
- Lowered IQ
- Stomach ache
- Anemia
- Sleeplessness
- Tiredness/Fatigue
- Learning problems
- Constipation
- Vomiting



## Important Facts about Lead Poisoning

• It is common for children with elevated blood lead levels to not have specific symptoms.

• If you think your child has been exposed, ask your pediatrician to perform a simple blood lead screening test, as this is the only way to know for certain.

• Children under six years old are at the most risk for lead poisoning due to their rapid growth and development and hand-to-mouth behaviors.

## Additional Safety Facts

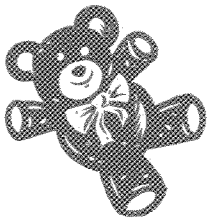
• A major part of toy related deaths of 2005 occurred when a child choked or aspirated on a small ball or other toy parts.

• Additionally, in 2005 a significant number of toy related injuries were from riding toys such as falls.

## Tips for a Lead-Safe Holiday

- Examine toys for signs of wear, especially if your child is mouthing, biting, or chewing toys.
- Wash toys and hands often to clean off household dust. Dust may contain lead from deteriorating paint and soil from outside.
- Use age-appropriate toys.
- Keep in mind that home lead kits are not always accurate. Positive test results are most likely positive, but negative results may be unreliable.

- In addition to paint, lead may be found in products containing vinyl, plastic, metal, or ceramic glaze.
- Have you child tested for lead at 1 and 2 years of age. If your child may be at higher risk, have your child checked at other ages as well.
- Watch what goes into your child's mouth.



## Additional Tips for Home Lead Safety

- Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and preparing formula. Let the tap run until water is cold for about 1-2 minutes to flush out any lead that may come out of your water pipes.
- The majority of homes built before 1978 contain lead based paint and should be tested. Contact the Lead Hazard Reduction Compliance and Enforcement Program at (408) 918-3458.
- Never sand, burn, or scrape paint unless you know it does not contain lead.

## Gifts for the Entire Family

Time together during the holidays is the most important gift of all. Consider some of the following activities as safe and fun alternatives!

- Sports activities, hikes, nature walks,
- Outings to the zoo, aquariums, museums, concerts in the park,
- Memberships in family fitness classes or to a gym.
- Movie tickets or movie rentals,
- Gardening gifts (bulbs, seeds, plants to plant together), or
- Volunteer together at a "soup kitchen" or other community service activities to give back.