



45
YEARS
of making a safer
world for kids

TOY SAFETY GUIDE

Practical, easy tips to ensure your family
has a safe and happy holiday season



WELCOME

Welcome to the Kidsafe Toy Safety Guide, your trusted companion in selecting safe and age-appropriate toys for your little ones this Christmas.

This time of year is all about joy and celebration, and we want to ensure your gift-giving is as safe as it is fun.

Our guide is packed with practical tips and expert insights, crafted to help you navigate the toy aisles with confidence.

It includes key considerations like age suitability, safety standards and how to spot potential hazards, ensuring that every toy you choose brings smiles and safety to your family.

Dive in to discover how you can create a safe and joyful holiday season for your kids.

Thank you for your support, and warm holiday wishes from all of us here at Kidsafe Victoria!

CHOOSING TOYS THIS CHRISTMAS

No matter what toys are on your list this year, there are some general guidelines to follow - especially if you're shopping for children aged three and under.



Select age-appropriate toys

It's important to select age-appropriate toys for children. The age recommendations are about toy safety, not how smart or capable your child is. Toys labelled 'not suitable for children under three' means there are small parts that may pose a choking hazard.



Check the safety standards

In Australia, there is a mandatory standard for toys for children up to and including 36 months of age that outlines factors such as the design, construction and labelling required.

<https://www.productsafety.gov.au/business/search-mandatory-standards>



Read all the information provided

Read the label and instructions carefully to ensure the toy is non-toxic, non-flammable and is being used correctly.

CHOOSING TOYS THIS CHRISTMAS



Test for durability

Make sure toys are durable and washable, and have no small parts that can be swallowed.



Choose for quality

Look at the quality of the toy and for possible hazards including sharp edges, small parts or long strings, weak construction, moving parts or unsecured battery casings.



Hidden hazards

Check if toys include button batteries or magnets, which can be dangerous if swallowed.



CHOOSING TOYS THIS CHRISTMAS



Safe storage

If storing toys in a box, make sure a child cannot get trapped inside. Try to find one without a lid or one with a lightweight, removable lid without a lock, that includes ventilation openings to allow air to enter the toy box. If the lid has hinges, ensure the hinges are positioned to prevent fingers being trapped when closing.



For all ages

If there are children of different ages playing together, remember to check that age inappropriate toys are not within reach of little ones, and are always packed away after use.



Be recall ready

Be aware of toy recalls, which are regularly updated on the [Product Safety Australia website](https://www.productsafety.gov.au/recalls).

<https://www.productsafety.gov.au/recalls>



TIP

Got lots of packaging lying around after your Christmas Eve gift-wrapping spree? Always tie a knot in plastic bags before storing or throwing them away to reduce the risk of suffocation for little kids.



ELECTRONICS & BATTERIES



Every parent knows the panic of being caught out without batteries for a new toy, but it's important to make sure they are always used and stored safely.

Coin-sized button batteries are found in many common household devices, toys and even greeting cards. If ingested, a button battery can cause severe life-threatening injuries and in some cases death.



Battery safety

For toys and electronics, ensure the battery compartment is secure. Under the mandatory standard, consumer goods containing button/coin batteries or small batteries (e.g. AAAs) must have a secure battery compartment.



Safe storage

If you are stocking up on batteries for Christmas Day, keep them locked away out of the sight and reach of children.



ELECTRONICS & BATTERIES

Powered up

Charge phones, tablets and other electrical equipment on a hard surface away from flammable materials, and always use the charging cable recommended by the manufacturer. Never leave devices unattended while charging, including charging at night - always disconnect them before going to bed.

Safe disposal

Dispose of old batteries immediately and safely. For more information on safe battery recycling and to find your nearest drop-off point, visit the [B-cycle Battery Recycling](https://bcycle.com.au/) website.

<https://bcycle.com.au/>



WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY

If you think your child has ingested a battery, call triple zero (000) immediately and let them know you think they swallowed a battery.

As soon as you arrive at the hospital, make sure the staff know this too so they can give your child an x-ray - this is the only way to know for sure if they have swallowed a battery.

CHOKING HAZARDS

Some of our favourite Christmas trinkets and accessories, like crackers and stocking stuffers, can hide unexpected hazards for young children.

These small, colourful items might look harmless, but they can pose a choking risk if left lying around for babies or toddlers to put in their mouths.

Any item smaller than a 20-cent coin can pose a choking hazard for a toddler. That makes for a long list of items that can choke children including - but not limited to - food, coins, batteries, magnets, jewellery and toy parts.



TIP

Use a 20-cent piece or a toilet roll to identify potential choking hazards for children.



CLOTHING & PYJAMAS

Whether it's cute Christmas costumes or the classic 'socks and jocks' combo, here are a few things to keep in mind when buying clothes and pyjamas for children.



Check for choking hazards

Avoid clothing with small buttons, sequins or other detachable items that could pose a choking risk.



Avoid drawstrings

Steer clear of clothes with drawstrings around the neck or waist, as they can pose a strangulation hazard.



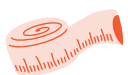
Pick comfortable fabrics

Choose breathable, non-irritating materials that are gentle on sensitive skin, especially in warmer weather.



Accessories

Avoid necklaces - including teething necklaces - and other jewellery that can pull around a baby or young child's neck.



Consider the fit

Make sure clothes fit well - not too tight or too loose - to allow for safe movement and play.



Check for loose threads

Inspect seams and hems to ensure there are no loose threads that could unravel or cause discomfort.



Look for fire safety labels

Ensure sleepwear and other garments that have sleeves or arm openings - such as hooded towels or blankets - are labelled with the correct fire hazard label.



PLAY EQUIPMENT & POOL TOYS



From backyard barbecues to pool parties and beach cricket, there are so many opportunities to get out and enjoy the great outdoors at this time of year, so it's no surprise that play equipment and pool toys are a regular feature on Christmas lists!

PLAY EQUIPMENT



Make sure equipment such as swings and slides meet Australian Standards.



Check equipment is stable, has no sharp edges, splinters or pieces that could come loose.



Trampolines aren't recommended for children under six years of age.

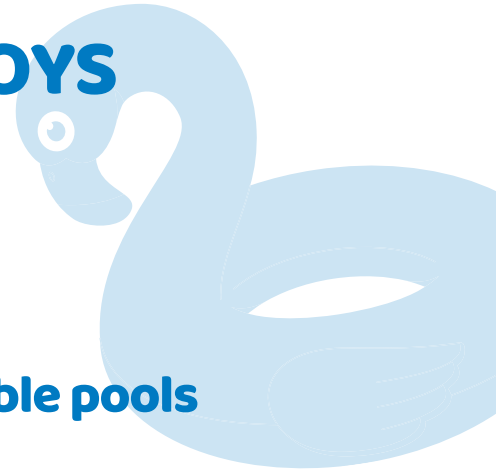
If you do use one, make sure it meets the Australian Standard AS 4989 and is regularly checked to make sure it is in good condition.



Buying a bike, balance bike or scooter this year? Throw in a helmet as well - children must always wear a helmet while riding any wheeled device.



PLAY EQUIPMENT & POOL TOYS



POOL TOYS



Portable pools

Before you buy a portable pool (also called inflatable pools, wading pools, kiddie pools, toddler pools or splash pools), check the laws and registration requirements.

Any portable pool that can hold more than 30 centimetres of water is legally required to be surrounded by a safety barrier in Victoria.

Visit the [Victorian Building Authority website](https://www.vba.vic.gov.au/consumers/swimming-pools/pool-safety-barriers) or contact your local council for more information.

<https://www.vba.vic.gov.au/consumers/swimming-pools/pool-safety-barriers>



Deflate and pack away

Even if your portable pool holds less than 30cm of water, it can still pose a drowning hazard. Empty it out and pack it away as soon as you have finished using it. This helps to make sure that the pool can't fill with rainwater or water from the hose or sprinkler.

PLAY EQUIPMENT & POOL TOYS

POOL TOYS



Fun vs. safety

Remember that while floaties and inflatable pool toys can be fun, they are not safety devices and aren't designed to prevent drowning.



Check the warnings

Always check the pool you are purchasing is marked with appropriate warnings both on the packaging and pool.

A warning to keep constant vision of children must be permanently marked on the pool.



All portable pools must display this safety sign.

If the portable swimming pool is less than 300mm deep, the warning message must include the following statement:

WARNING! Children have drowned in portable swimming pools. Ensure active adult supervision at all times. Do not leave children unsupervised in or around the pool - keep them within arm's reach. Empty and store safely after use.

If the portable swimming pool is 300mm deep or more, the warning message must include the following statement:

WARNING! Children have drowned in portable swimming pools. Ensure active adult supervision at all times. Do not leave children unsupervised in or around the pool - keep them within arm's reach. Pool fencing laws apply to this pool. Consult your local government authority for fencing requirements.

BUYING SECOND HAND & ONLINE

Shopping for toys second hand or online can be a treasure hunt - and a great way to keep costs down at Christmas - but keeping safety in mind is key. Here's some tips to ensure your little ones stay safe.



Know where you're buying from

If you're buying from an international website or seller, they may not be subject to the same safety standards as Australian retailers.

Only buy from sellers that you trust, especially for products containing electronics or batteries.



Check for recalls

Before purchasing, make sure the toy hasn't been recalled.

You can check the [Australian Competition and Consumer Commission \(ACCC\) website](https://www.productsafety.gov.au/recalls) to see if any products have been recalled for safety issues.

<https://www.productsafety.gov.au/recalls>

BUYING SECOND HAND & ONLINE



Inspect the toy

Look out for any small parts or sharp edges, especially if the toy is for younger kids. Check for any wear or tear that might compromise the safety of the product.



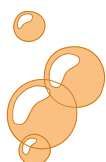
Read the labels

Ensure the toy meets safety standards. Labels can provide important information about age appropriateness and safety features.



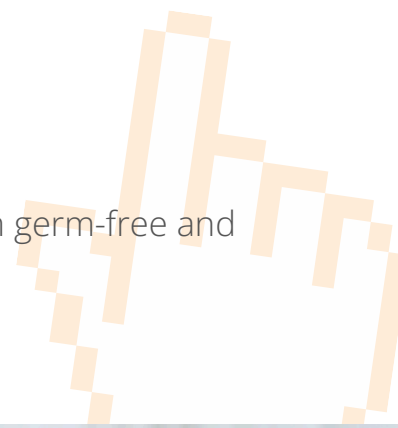
Battery safety

Make sure battery compartments are secure and can't be easily opened by curious little fingers. Older toys or those manufactured overseas may not have properly secured battery compartments, so make sure you check before you buy.



Clean and sanitise

Give second-hand toys a good clean to keep them germ-free and ready for playtime!



RESOURCES

Kidsafe Victoria is here to provide parents and carers with safety advice, support and resources not just at Christmas, but all year round. Together, we can help make a safer world for children.



Visit our website

The Kidsafe Victoria website is your one-stop shop for safety information, resources and products. It has everything you need to keep your little ones safe and sound.

www.kidsafevic.com.au



Connect with us on social media

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for all the latest news, updates and event information.

 @KidsafeVic

 @kidsafevic

**IN AN EMERGENCY,
CALL 000**

SUPPORT US

We hope you found our resource super helpful in keeping your little ones safe over the festive season. If you did, we'd be thrilled if you'd consider supporting us with a donation.

Every little bit helps us continue our mission to make the world a safer place for kids. Thank you for being part of our journey!

DONATE ❤️

kidsafevic.com.au

