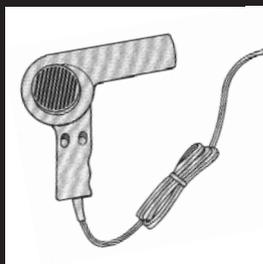


Dangerous and Recalled Products

REFERENCE GUIDE

For Resale Stores
(CPSC Publication #254)



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

www.cpsc.gov

www.recalls.gov



GUIDANCE FOR OPERATORS OF RESALE AND THRIFT STORES

We need your help in reducing preventable injuries and deaths

Each year the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) works with manufacturers and distributors to recall 250–300 potentially hazardous products. These include toys, nursery furniture and equipment, home appliances, clothing, power tools, sports equipment, and many other products that people use in and around their homes and in recreational settings.

We announce these recalls through the media and publicize them on our toll-free hotline and our Internet Web site. Still, many consumers don't hear about the recalls and continue to use these potentially dangerous products. Others are unaware that products that once were safe may have become hazardous through prolonged use. When they're through with the products, they may take them to resale, consignment or thrift stores.

In 1999, CPSC conducted a study of resale and thrift stores nationwide. We found that 69 percent were selling products that had been recalled, banned, or didn't meet current safety standards.

How can you help? Don't accept, buy, or sell hazardous consumer products.

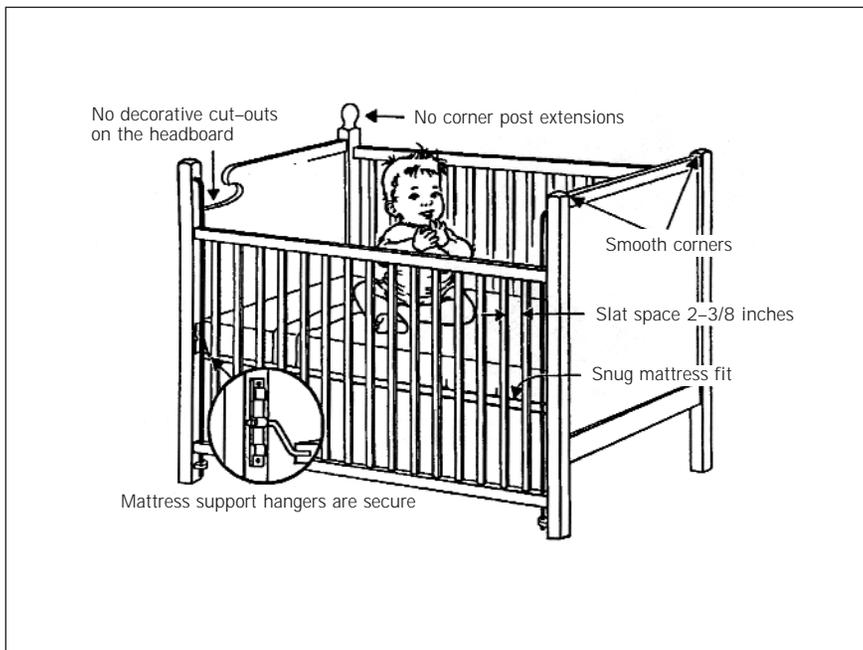
- Refer to the CPSC Web site at www.cpsc.gov or log on to www.recalls.gov to learn about product recalls and safety information in English and Spanish.
- Use this guide for thrift and resale stores to help you identify several types of potentially hazardous products that could harm children or others.
- Get CPSC's recall notices and other safety information automatically by subscribing to our e-mail list found on our web site.
- Check the "Recalls and Safety News" button on cpsc.gov or the "Consumer Products" tab on www.recalls.gov for information on product recalls.
- Call CPSC's toll-free hotline at (800) 638-2772 for information in English and Spanish on product recalls.

Cribs

THE PRODUCT: Used cribs that don't meet current safety standards.

THE HAZARDS: Suffocation, strangulation.

More infants die each year in incidents involving cribs than from any other nursery product; about 20 deaths a year were reported over a recent three-year period. There also are about 11,000 crib-related injuries to infants and toddlers treated annually in hospital emergency rooms.



WHAT TO DO:

- **Inspect** each crib to be sure it has the following safety features:
 - slats spaced no more than $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches apart;
 - no missing or loose slats;
 - a properly sized mattress. The mattress is too small if you can fit more than two fingers between the edge of the mattress and the side of the crib. An infant can get his head or body wedged in the extra space and suffocate.
 - corner posts are no more than $\frac{1}{16}$ inch high. They can be catch points for objects or clothing worn by a child and cause strangulation.
 - no missing, broken or loose hardware;
 - no decorative cutouts in the headboard or footboard. Cutouts can entrap a child's head; and
 - no unsecured mattress support hangers that can be easily dislodged. Children can be entrapped and suffocate.

- **Don't sell** cribs that have any of the hazards described in the list above. **Destroy them.**

Mesh-Sided Play Yards and Cribs, Portable Wooden Cribs, Wooden Playpens

THE PRODUCTS: Mesh-sided play yards (playpens) and cribs, wooden play yards, and portable wooden cribs.

THE HAZARDS: Suffocation, strangulation, choking.

Every year, about 1,400 children under 5 years old are treated in hospital emergency rooms for injuries associated with play yards, and six die.

The side of a mesh play yard or portable crib left in the down position forms a pocket that an infant can roll into, become trapped, and suffocate.

The top rails of a play yard or portable crib with a rotating center hinge may collapse and form an acute V-shape that can entrap a child's neck and cause her to strangle.

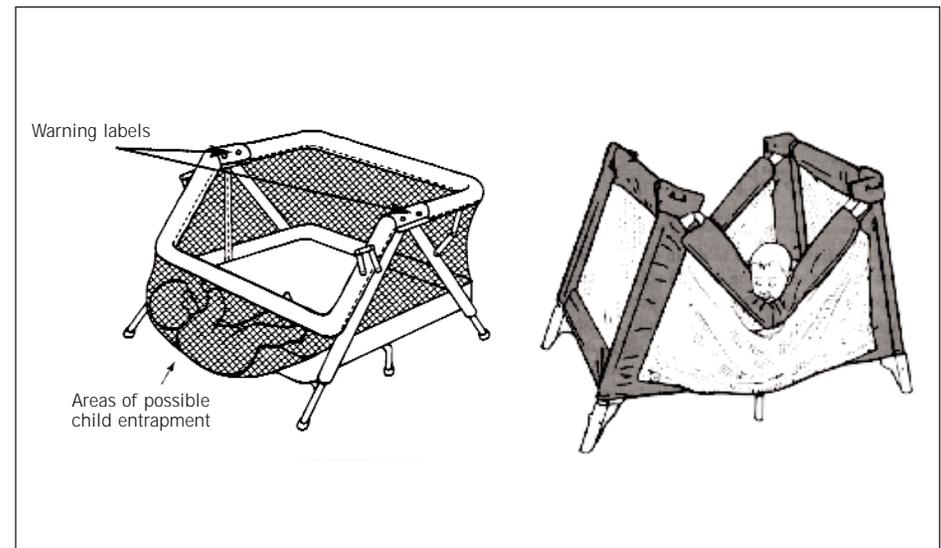
A toddler can strangle in a play yard or portable crib with protruding rivets if a pacifier string or loose (or loosely woven) clothing catches on one. An infant or toddler also can get his head caught in tears in the mesh and strangle. A teething infant can chew off pieces of the vinyl covering of a play yard's railing and choke.

A baby's body, except for the head, can pass entirely between the slats of a wooden play yard or portable wooden crib that are more than 2³/₈ inches apart, and the baby may strangle.

WHAT TO DO:

- Inspect all mesh-sided play yards and portable cribs, and play yards with wooden side slats and portable wooden cribs for the following safety features:
 - mesh-sided play yards and portable cribs with drop sides have warning labels that say the sides should never be left in the down position;
 - top rails of mesh-sided play yards and cribs with a hinge in the center automatically lock when the rails are lifted into the normal use position;

- mesh-sided play yards or portable cribs have no rivets protruding 1/16 inch or more on the outside of the top rails;
 - the mesh has a small weave (the openings are less than 1/4 inch);
 - the mesh has no tears or loose threads;
 - the mesh is securely attached to the top rail and floor plate;
 - the covering of the top rails has no tears or holes; and
 - any staples, rivets, or screws used in construction are not loose or missing.
 - wooden play yards and portable wooden cribs have slats that are no more than 2³/₈ inches apart and no broken or missing parts.
- CPSC has conducted numerous recalls of play yard's over the past 15 years which can be found by logging on to www.cpsc.gov.
 - **Don't sell** play yards and portable cribs that don't meet the safety criteria above. **Destroy them.**



Combination Infant Car Seats/Carriers

THE PRODUCT: Certain models of combination infant car seats/carriers manufactured by Century, Evenflo, Cosco, and Kolcraft that also can be used as infant carriers outside a vehicle.

THE HAZARDS: Skull fracture, concussion, cuts, scrapes, bruises.

When used as an infant carrier, the Century handle can break, allowing an infant to fall to the ground. With the others, the locks on each side of the seat can release without warning or can move and cause the seat to rotate suddenly, causing the infant to be ejected.

There have been at least 360 reported injuries to infants. These injuries happened whether the children were buckled in or not.

WHAT TO DO:

- Inspect the label on the side of each infant car seat/carrier and look for the following:
 - the manufacturer's name: Century, Evenflo, Cosco, or Kolcraft, and
 - the model name (may not appear) and date:
 - Century car seat/carriers manufactured from January 1991 through July 1997;
 - On My Way (Evenflo), any date between December 15, 1995 and July 27, 1997;
 - Arriva, Turnabout (Cosco), any date between March 1, 1995 and September 9, 1997; or
 - Infant Rider, Secura, Travel-About, Plus 4, Plus 5, Kolcraft Infant Restraint, Kolcraft Infant Car Seat, Playskool Infant Car Seat (Kolcraft) and any date between January 1, 1993 and June 30, 1999.

- **Contact CPSC*** if you have a recalled infant car seat/carrier with one of the manufacturer's names above on it, or if you think it's one of the models listed above. CPSC can tell you if it has been recalled and if it can be repaired to make it safe. [**Check the recalls section of www.cpsc.gov, send an e-mail to info@cpsc.gov, or call CPSC's toll-free hotline, 800-638-2772*]
- **Don't sell** a recalled infant car seat/carrier made by one of the four manufacturers named above and/or that is one of the models above without checking with CPSC. If you find out the carrier has been recalled and you can't fix it, **destroy it**.



Century



Evenflo On My Way



Cosco Arriva



Cosco Turnabout



Kolcraft representative models

Baby Walkers

THE PRODUCT: Out-of-date baby walkers that fit through standard doorways and don't stop at the top of stairs. (See illustration below.)

Two new, safer styles of baby walkers meet a new safety standard. The new styles are designed to help prevent injuries and deaths from falls down stairs. (See illustrations below.)

The first new style of baby walker has a base that is wider than a normal 36-inch doorway.

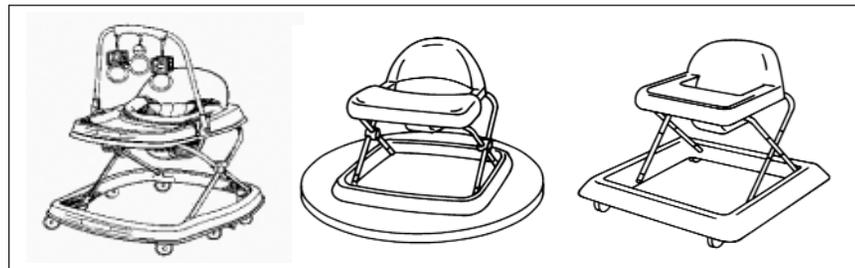
The second new style of baby walker has rubber-like strips underneath or around the base that grip the floor and stop the walker at the edge of a step.

THE HAZARDS: Death, skull fracture, concussion, internal injuries, broken bones, cuts, bruises.

In the past, more children were injured with baby walkers than with any other nursery product. Since 1973, walkers have been involved in at least 39 deaths. In 2001, an estimated 5,100 children under 15 months old suffered walker-related injuries that were treated in hospital emergency rooms. Most of these injuries resulted from falls down stairs.

WHAT TO DO:

- **Inspect** each walker. Each should either be at least 36 inches wide at the base or have gripping strips to help stop it at the edge of a step.
- **Don't sell** baby walkers unless they have one of these new safety features. **Destroy them.**



Out-of-date baby walker

First new style: base is too wide to fit through doorway

Second new style: safety features, such as gripping mechanism stops walker at edge of step

Accordion Style Baby Gates

THE PRODUCT: Expandable, accordion-style baby gates with large openings that could entrap a child's head, made until 1985. (See illustrations below.)

Baby gates are meant to prevent toddlers from falling down stairs or entering unsafe areas through doorways.

Baby gates manufactured since 1985 are safer. They have openings too small to entrap a child's head. Most are straight across the top and have a pressure bar or other fastener that can resist the forces exerted by a small child. (See illustration below.)

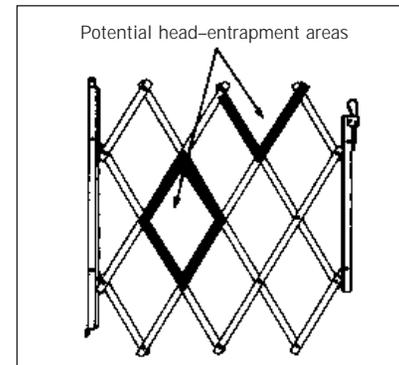
THE HAZARDS: Head entrapment, strangulation.

When toddlers try to climb over or through accordion-style gates, their heads can get caught in the large V-shaped and diamond-shaped openings and they can strangle.

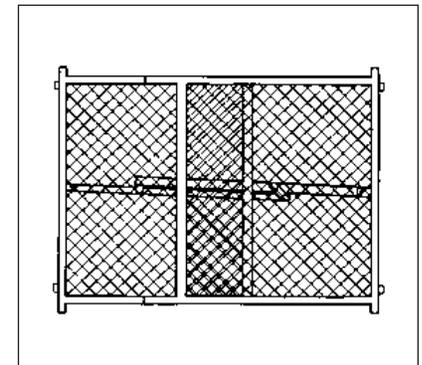
Each year about 1,600 children under 5 years old suffer injuries related to baby gates. In total, CPSC received reports of nine children who have died.

WHAT TO DO:

- **Don't sell** expandable accordion-style baby gates with large openings. **Destroy them.**



UNSAFE: Accordion-style baby gate



SAFE: non accordion-style baby gate, made since 1985

Toy Chests

THE PRODUCT: Chests and boxes with hinged lids made or used to store toys. This includes those specifically manufactured for toy storage, as well as trunks, cedar chests, wicker chests, footlockers, decorator cubes, wooden storage chests, and other similar items.

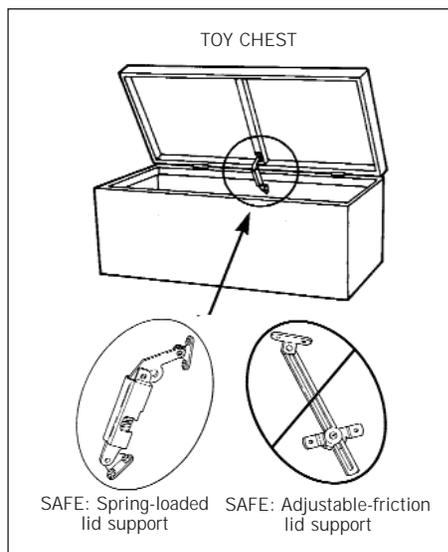
THE HAZARDS: Strangulation, suffocation, brain damage, crushed and pinched fingers.

Lids can fall on children's heads or necks, causing brain damage or death. Children who climb inside hinged chests or boxes to hide or sleep can suffocate due to lack of air. There have been numerous reports of deaths to children.

WHAT TO DO:

- **Inspect** every toy chest and other toy storage unit with a hinged lid to be sure it meets all of the following safety criteria:
 - It has a spring-loaded lid support that will keep the lid open in any position without adjustment (*see illustration below*);
 - it has no latch that could trap a child inside the chest; and
 - it has two or more ventilation holes or openings near the top of the front or sides.

- **Don't sell** toy chests or other large hinged boxes or chests that could be used for toy storage if they don't meet the safety criteria above. **Destroy them.**



Clothing Drawstrings

THE PRODUCT: Drawstrings in children's upper outerwear found at the neck, waist, and/or bottom, especially in jackets and sweatshirts made before 1997.

Since 1997, most children's jackets and sweatshirts have been made with no neck or hood drawstrings. Buttons, snaps, elastic, Velcro and other fasteners are being used instead of drawstrings.

THE HAZARD: Strangulation, vehicular dragging.

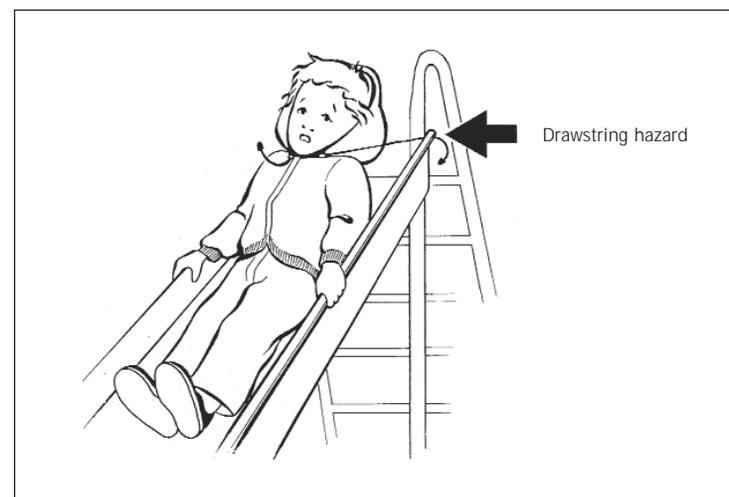
A hood or neck drawstring can catch on objects, such as a playground slide or corner post on a crib or fence, and cause a child to strangle.

A drawstring at the waist or bottom of a jacket or sweatshirt can catch in the door of a bus or car and cause a child to be dragged and killed or seriously injured.

From 1985–2000, there were at least 23 reported deaths and 56 non-fatal incidents to children aged 14 months to 14 years that involved drawstrings.

WHAT TO DO:

- Remove the drawstrings from the hood, neck, waist and bottom of all jackets and sweatshirts made for children between 14 months and 14 years old.



Bunk Beds for Children

THE PRODUCT: Bunk beds with mattress foundations 30 inches or more above the floor.

THE HAZARDS: Strangulation, suffocation.

Since 1990, over 70 young children have been reported to have died by strangulation or suffocation from entrapment in bunk beds. Most were 3 years old or younger.

Some children strangled when their bodies, but not their heads, slid between a side guardrail and the side bed rail of the upper bunk, leaving their bodies hanging.

Some children suffocated when they became trapped in openings within the footboard or headboard, or between the bed and the wall. A few children died when the bed collapsed on top of them.

WHAT TO DO:

- **Inspect** each bunk bed and look for the following safety features:

TOP BUNK

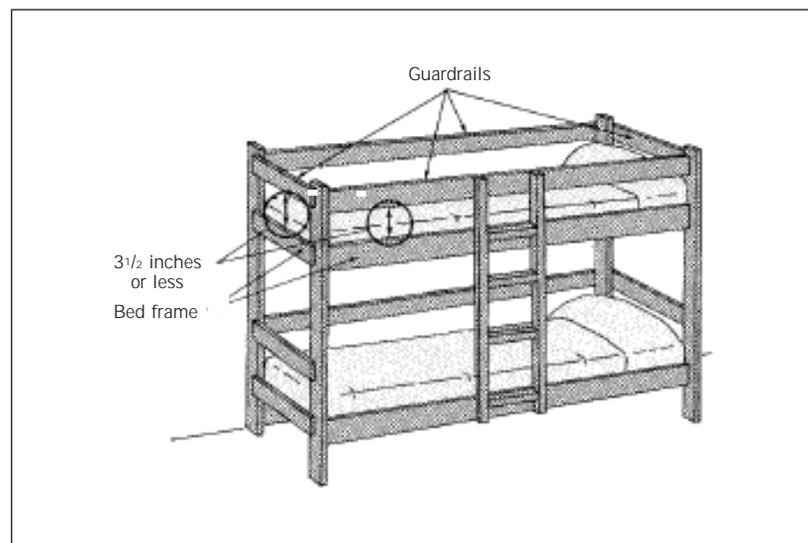
- a continuous guardrail from end to end on the wall side of the top bunk
- a guardrail no more than 15 inches from either the footboard or headboard on the side away from the wall
- guardrail openings should be less than 3¹/₂ inches between the guardrail sections and the bed frame.
- openings or slats in the headboard and footboard should be less than 3¹/₂ inches.
- the top of the mattress (if there is one) is at least 5 inches below the upper edge of the guardrails

LOWER BUNK

- either less than 3¹/₂ inches or more than 9 inches between openings and slats in the headboard and footboard.

UPPER AND LOWER BUNKS

- the mattress (if there is one) is the size specified in the warning label on the bed and/or the mattress fits the frame snugly
 - mattress supports are securely fastened to the bed by screws or bolts
 - tubular metal bunk beds: no breaks or cracks in the paint or metal around the welds that hold the side rail to the bed frame at all four corners of the upper and lower bunks.
- Look for labels on new bunks beds indicating that they meet federal safety standards. **Don't sell** any bunk beds that do not have these labels or meet these safety features. **Destroy them.**



BUNK BED

Bean Bag Chairs

THE PRODUCT: Zippered bean bag chairs stuffed with small foam pellets.

THE HAZARD: Suffocation, choking.

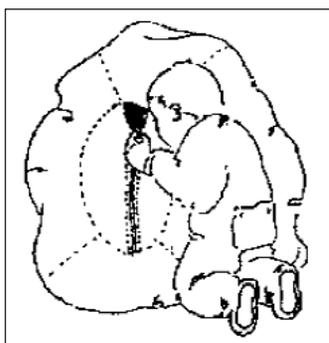
Some children unzip a bean bag chair, crawl inside, inhale or ingest the foam pellets, and they suffocate. Some unzip the chairs, then pull out the foam pellets and play with them. The pellets clog their mouths and noses, and they suffocate. Other children choke on the pellets but survive.

CPSC is aware of five reported deaths and at least 27 non-fatal incidents associated with bean bag chairs.

Since 1996, bean bag chairs have been manufactured with zippers that young children can't open.

WHAT TO DO:

- **Inspect** each zippered bean bag chair for the following:
 - the zipper can't be opened by young children
 - no stuffing is coming out
- **Pull** at the chair's seams. They shouldn't come apart. If they do, the foam pellets could escape, posing a hazard to children.
- Don't sell any zippered bean bag chair that doesn't meet these safety criteria. **Destroy it.**



ZIPPERED BEAN BAG CHAIR

Hair Dryers

THE PRODUCT: Hair dryers that don't have immersion protection devices (see illustration below).

THE HAZARD: Electrocutation.

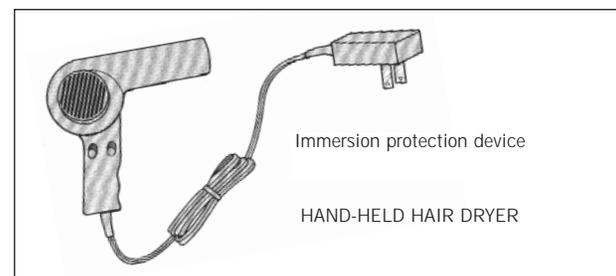
Electric voltage is still present even when the dryer switch is in the "off" position. A hair dryer without an immersion protection device that is accidentally dropped into water (such as in a sink or bathtub) can electrocute anyone in or touching the water.

Most new hand-held hair dryers have immersion protective devices. Many used ones do not.

There was an average of 18 electrocutions a year in the early 1980s involving hand-held hair dryers, before immersion protection devices were included in their design. Many of the deaths involved children under 10 years old. Today, there are no deaths associated with hair dryers that have immersion protection devices.

WHAT TO DO:

- Inspect all hand-held hair dryers. Look for the following on each:
 - an immersion protection device, which is a large, rectangular-shaped plug at the end of the cord (see the illustration above); and
 - the certification mark of a recognized testing laboratory, such as UL (Underwriters Laboratories) or ETL (Intertek Testing Services), on the hair dryer itself.
- **Don't sell** any hand-held hair dryer that doesn't have an immersion protection device and certification mark from a recognized testing laboratory. **Destroy it.**



Halogen Floor Lamps

THE PRODUCT: Freestanding floor lamps about six feet tall that use tubular halogen light bulbs (see illustration at right).

THE HAZARD: Fire.

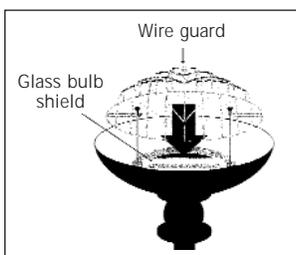
A halogen light bulb can heat up to nearly 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit. Flammable material that contacts the bulb may catch fire. From 1992–1999, CPSC received reports of at least 270 fires and 18 fire-related deaths involving halogen torchiere floor lamps.

Halogen torchiere floor lamps manufactured after February 5, 1997, that meet voluntary safety requirements, are made with a wire or glass guard. The guard fits over the glass bulb shield that covers the light bulb and reduces the potential fire hazard. The guard makes it harder for flammable materials to come in contact with the light bulb and catch fire.



WHAT TO DO:

- **Inspect** each halogen torchiere floor lamp. Look for the following:
 - a wire or glass guard over the glass bulb shield in the bowl at the top of the lamp. The top of the guard should be three inches from the glass bulb shield. *[Free wire guards are available from Catalina Lighting, Consumer Services, 18191 NW 68th Ave., Miami, FL 33015]*
 - bulb wattage. The tubular halogen light bulb should not be over 300 watts, even if the original label on the lamp says that a 500-watt bulb can be used.
 - the plug. It should be polarized (one blade wider than the other).
 - the cord. Inspect the cord for mechanical damage.
 - signs of corrosion, bent or loose parts. Any of these may indicate a malfunctioning or potentially hazardous lamp.
- **Don't sell** any halogen torchiere floor lamp that doesn't have a wire or glass guard over the glass bulb shield or that has any of the other hazards above. **Destroy it.**



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(CPSC 254)**

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