

The white "law tag" on each upholstered item is important. It tells consumers what the filling material is (polyester,

feathers or down, etc.), and lists the name and address of the manufacturer or distributor should consumers have any questions or problems with the product.

The Unit also protects consumers who buy rented, used, or renovated upholstered items.

These used items must be labeled with a **yellow** "law tag," and sprayed with a sanitizer which kills insects, germs and fungus. This prevents mold or mildew from growing in these items, and



prevents bug infestations.

Be sure to read the law labels on new, and especially used upholstered items that you buy for your home.



The Product Safety and Bedding Unit works closely with the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission in Washington, DC.

You may contact the Product Safety and Bedding Unit at (860) 713-6115 with any questions or concerns, or e-mail the Unit at: dcp.productsafety@ct.gov

#### Other helpful resources:

Consumer Product Safety Commission www.cpsc.gov

U.S. Recall Information www.recall.gov

Department of Consumer Protection 165 Capitol Avenue Hartford, CT 06106

# CONSUMER PROTECTION FACT SHEET

# Product Safety Everyone



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
Department of Consumer Protection

#### Product safety is for everyone -- and everyone has to be part of the effort.

A lot goes into keeping Connecticut's products safe. The Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection's Product Safety and Bedding Unit enforces many safety regulations for certain toys and other children's articles. Important laws include the Connecticut State Child Protection Act and the Federal Consumer Product Safety Act. These laws ensure that manufacturers design and produce their products so that hazardous products are not sold.

The Product Safety Unit inspects local stores and will recall unsafe toys and children's items.

#### Family and Caring Adults are Most Important

While government agencies do their best to keep unsafe products off the shelves, it's parents, families and caregivers of young children who are most effective in protecting children from unsafe toys and household dangers.



Careful toy selection and proper supervision of children is still -- and always will be -- the best way to protect children from unintentional injuries.



## Choose your Child's Toys Carefully

Keep in mind the child's age, interests, and skill level.

Keep small objects out of your child's reach. Tiny toys, and toys with small, removable parts can be swallowed or become

lodged in a child's windpipe, ears or nose.

Look for the age recommendation labels. Keep toys designed for older children out of the hands of the little ones.

Balloons are not recommended for children under 8 years without parental supervision. More children have suffocated on uninflated balloons and pieces of broken balloons than on any other type of toy.

#### Be Aware of Household Dangers

Know where the "danger" items are – medicines, toxic bleaches, oven and drain cleaners, etc. and children's curious hands. Pay special attention to items packaged in CHILD RESISTANT



containers -- these are certain to contain poisonous chemicals. Don't just store them under a sink or out in plain view. LOCK THEM AWAY in a secure place!

Guard against electric shocks. Cover unused outlets with safety caps.

Keep children away from open windows to prevent falls. Make sure the window blinds have cords that do not have an outer loop on the end of the pull cords, and that the inner cords cannot form a loop, to prevent choking or strangulation.

In December 2010, all drop-side cribs have been recalled, due to their high risk of causing injury to infants and toddlers. These cribs should no longer be sold, purchased or used.

### New and Used Bedding and Upholstered Furiniture

In addition to toys and children's products, the agency's Product Safety and Bedding Unit is responsible for the safety of items which have hidden filling material and are used for sitting, resting or reclining. This includes new and used mattresses, upholstered furniture, pillows and cushions.

The Department's inspectors examine upholstered products being sold in the state to ensure their safety for Connecticut consumers.