

- Check CPSC website www.cpsc.gov to see if toy is recalled.
- To minimize the risk of purchasing lead-contaminated toys: check CPSC website, avoid purchasing non-brand toys or toys from discount shops/private vendors, do not purchase old toys, and do not give costume jewelry to young children. Lead can be found in at least four different forms: paint on the surface of a toy, pigment throughout the toy, lead in jewelry, and lead in vinyl or plastic.
- Toys should be washable and labeled nontoxic.
- Toys should be larger than 1 and 1/4" in diameter and longer than 2 and 1/4" in length (can use paper toilet roll to test diameter – if it fits in roll, it is unsafe).
- For a riding toy, it should be stable and well-balanced so it won't tip.
- All parts of toy should be protected so that a falling child will not be injured.
- The weight of the toy should be light enough for a child to handle.
- For a cloth toy, it should be labeled flame resistant, flame retardant or nonflammable.
- For a stuffed toy, the seams should be sewn tightly so the stuffing cannot come out and all paper tags should be removed.
- For electrical toys, it should be labeled "UL" (for Underwriters Laboratory), which means that the electrical parts have been safety tested.
- For mechanical toys, the driving springs should be adequately encased.
- For battery operated toys, the battery case should be securely closed so children cannot open it.
- For a metal toy, it should be free from rust.
- For a plastic toy, it should be sufficiently strong or flexible so it won't break and leave sharp or jagged edges.

Things to Avoid:

- Small cars (ex. Matchbox or Hot Wheels) due to their small wheels and parts.
- Toys with magnets, unless magnet is big (doesn't fit in toilet paper roll) or magnet is completely enclosed in an object that doesn't fit in a toilet paper roll. Serious injuries and/or death can occur if a child swallows two or more magnets, or if one is swallowed with a metal object. The CPSC recommends that for children under 6 years of age, building sets or play sets with small magnets should be avoided.
- Toys with detachable small parts (ex. removable eyes) that could lodge in windpipes, ears or noses.

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- Foam blocks, books, puzzles, etc. (a child could potentially bite off piece of foam)
- Play forks, spoons, or knives. They can become lodged in a child's throat. Large spatulas or mixing spoons are safer choices for dramatic play.
- Toys with sharp edges, exposed nails, sharp wires and straight pins.
- Toys with parts that could pinch fingers or toes or catch hair.
- Toys with cords/strings that are longer than 12 inches long.
- Straps on hats and guitars. It is recommended to remove them. Straps pose a strangulation hazard.
- Long straps/handles on bags or purses. Remove them or tie a knot to shorten. Child should not be able to get his/her head through strap/handle.
- Ties, scarves, necklaces, boas, etc. due to strangulation hazard.

Sources used: Minimizing lead exposure, AAP News, Volume 29, Number 1, January 2008.
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Leading the Way for Child Care in North Dakota

Eastern North Dakota 800-941-7003 or 218-299-7026 ~ Western North Dakota 888-223-1510 or 701-223-1510

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