

Environmental Health and Safety

December 2015



Safe Toys and Gifts

In 2014, approximately 251,800 toy-related injuries were reported in U.S. Hospitals.

In 2014, there were 11 reports of fatalities caused by unsafe toys in the U.S. All victims were under 12 years of age.

From 2010 through 2014, a total of 61 toy-related deaths were reported, along with 1,287,500 injuries.

The use of toxic levels of lead in toys was banned in the U.S. in 1978, but other countries can still import toys made with higher amounts of lead.

In 2011, it was discovered that 80% of children's products contain toxic flame retardants.



Many toys given to children contain dangerous amounts of toxic substances. When children come into contact with these materials, it can result in harmful health consequences.

In order to keep your child safe, it is necessary to become familiar with the toxic materials used to make many popular toys.

Most toys and other children's products are made with plastic, lead, flame retardants, and other dangerous substances. Although it can be difficult to find toys that are not made this way, it is possible to find safer alternatives that are made with organic, non-toxic materials.

By learning which toys are safe and which are dangerous, you can help to keep your child healthy, happy, and safe.

Examples of Safer Toys:

- ◆ Natural materials
 - ◇ Wood (with non-toxic varnish)
 - ◇ Organic cloth (cotton, wool, felt)
- ◆ Local
 - ◇ U.S. toys, by law, are not made with toxic amounts of lead.
- ◆ babygreenthumb.com sells toys made with all organic, non-toxic materials.
- ◆ Unpainted toys, or toys made with lead-free paint.
- ◆ Games and puzzles made with paper/cardboard.

Examples of Unsafe Toys:

- ◆ Lead
- ◆ Plastic
- ◆ PVC (vinyl)
- ◆ Stuffed animals filled with polyurethane foam
- ◆ Fabric toys coated with toxic flame retardants
 - ◇ Bromine
 - ◇ Chlorinated Tris
- ◆ Costume jewelry
- ◆ Play cosmetics



Resources

[Toy Injury Statistics](#)

[Tips for Choosing Safe Toys](#)

[CDC Lead Hazards](#)

[Hidden Dangers of Toys](#)

[Washington Toxics Coalition](#)

Created By R. Benjamin

Don't learn safety by accident