



SAFE KIDS USA POSITION STATEMENT USED CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS

Outdated, damaged or recalled products for children can be hazardous. Not all damage is visible. These are key reasons used products can be unsafe:

- A car seat or bike helmet may have been involved in a crash
- Typically, car seats must have been manufactured less than six years ago to be considered safe
- Older, broken or modified cribs are now known to pose suffocation and strangulation hazards to children
- An item may be missing important parts, warning labels, or user instructions
- An item may have small parts that are no longer securely fastened, or it can now be easily broken into small parts, creating choking hazards for young children
- An item may not be labeled with date of manufacture and model number, so you cannot check to see if it has been recalled
- An item may be cracked or have peeling paint, splinters, or rough edges

For these reasons, it may not be safe to use products for children purchased at flea markets or from the Internet, consignment stores or yard sales.

Safe Kids USA's policy is that parents and caregivers should not purchase or use any product with an unknown history or any product that does not comply with current health and safety standards.

Used products "handed down" by friends and relatives may be safe, as long as they are in good repair, comply with current standards and are not under recall. Specifically, sharing a car seat is acceptable as long as the seat has never been in a crash and all parts and instructions are available.

Always check that a used or hand-me-down product has not been recalled. Find resources for checking recalls below. Remove all recalled products from the home immediately.



A federal law enacted in 2008, the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA), established new standards for children's products. Children's products that do not meet these standards cannot be sold, including at secondhand stores and resale shops. Some of the Act's major provisions include:

- A ban on children's products containing more than trace levels of lead
- A ban on children's toys or child care articles that contain more than trace levels of certain types of phthalates (plastic softeners)
- Mandatory testing of children's products to ensure they comply with safety rules

The organizations concurring with Safe Kids USA's policy include:

American Academy of Pediatrics

<http://www.aap.org/>

Juvenile Products Manufacturer's Association

<http://www.jpma.org/>

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)

<http://www.cpsc.gov/>

Key resources for checking recalls:

CPSC Recall Information

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prerel.html

CPSC Signup for E-mail Notification of Product Recalls

www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.aspx

NHTSA Car Seat Recalls

<http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems/recalls/recallsearch.cfm>

www.safekids.org