

**TOY SAFETY FOR THE HOLIDAYS –
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The holiday season has arrived and parents, caregivers and gift-givers alike are shopping for toys for the children in our lives. And we want to know that the toys we buy are safe. But that's not always the case -- some toys pose hidden threats to a child's health or safety that a parent will want to identify and mitigate before letting their child play with it. And some particularly dangerous toys are better left out of the home altogether.

We recently released our 35th annual "Trouble in Toyland" report to help parents and gift-givers spot potential toy hazards. [Learn more about how to keep the kids in your life safe from hazardous toys.](#) Here's what we found, & what to be on the lookout for when toy shopping:

1. **Recalled toys.** This year, we found multiple listings for 3 recalled toys all for sale on eBay.
Tip: When shopping for toys, especially at garage sales, second-hand stores or online, check the [Consumer Product Safety Commission's site](#) to confirm the toy hasn't already been recalled. [Learn more.](#)
2. **Choking hazards.** Most toys that contain small parts are labeled as choking hazards, but that's not guaranteed -- and toy parts such as bolts or pegs may still pose a threat due to their shape, even if they pass the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) small parts test. According to the CPSC's 2006 report on toy-related deaths, three children died from choking or aspirating on toy nails or pegs.
Tip: Parents with young children should thoroughly inspect toys, regardless of what the label does or doesn't say about potential choking hazards, and make decisions based on how they believe their child will interact with the toy. [Learn more.](#)
3. **Noisy toys.** Excessively noisy toys -- such as a toy fire truck we tested -- can cause permanent damage to children's hearing over time and should be avoided when possible.
Tip: Occasionally, toys offer options for lowering the volume, such as taking out the batteries or switching modes. If none of those options are available, you can place tape over the speaker to muffle the sound. [Learn more.](#)
4. **Six other types of toys to avoid** including:
 - dangerous high-powered magnets;
 - Calico Critters figurines that pose a choking hazard;
 - smartphone/tablet games with expensive in-app purchase options.
 - [Read our full list.](#)

Bottom line: Parents and caregivers need to know whether their kids' toys are safe -- and how to avoid potential hazards in the toy aisle when gift shopping this holiday season. We've been on the case for 35 years and counting, and this year, as in the past, we found ways to both spot dangerous toys and mitigate the hazards they pose to kids.

[Check out our "Trouble in Toyland" report to learn more.](#)

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