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Executive Summary

The 2002 Trouble in Toyland report is the seventeenth annual Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) toy safety survey. PIRG uses its survey to educate parents and the general public about toy hazards. Our reports have led to more than 100 enforcement actions by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and toy manufacturers since 1986.

This report focuses on three main hazards associated with toys: choking, phthalates, and noise. We also conducted our second extensive survey of toys sold on the internet.

Choking is the leading cause of toy deaths. Our survey found that many toys that pose choking hazards are still manufactured and sold, despite implementation of the 1994 Child Safety Protection Act (CSPA), publicity from PIRG and other groups, and intensified efforts by the CPSC and the U.S. Customs Service. This year, PIRG researchers found numerous toys that pose choking hazards, such as toys with small parts, balloons and small balls sold without choke hazard labels in bins and vending machines.

Phthalates are chemicals used in polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic to make it soft and pliable. Phthalates are probably human carcinogens and are known to cause chronic health problems, including liver and kidney abnormalities. As the CPSC has yet to ban phthalates in products for children under the age of five, PIRG researchers were able to find a number of soft vinyl toys containing phthalates during this year's toy survey.

PIRG also examined the risk of dangerously loud toys. Children can suffer hearing loss from repeated exposure to sounds louder than 85 decibels, about the same as a noisy restaurant or heavy traffic.¹ PIRG researchers found, with the help of a consumer advocate from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumers, 10 toys that produce sounds louder than 95 decibels.

Finally, PIRG conducted our second survey of online toy retailers. Our findings were similar to those of last year; virtually no online retailer posts the statutory choke hazard warnings, which are mandatory for toys sold in stores, on their websites. Similarly, less than half of the websites we surveyed included the manufacturer's age recommendation for a given toy.

Findings

- While small toys and toys with small parts continue to be sold without labels, manufacturers and retailers are generally doing a better job of labeling the bins in which these toys are sold, as required by law.
- Balloons are still manufactured and marketed in shapes and colors attractive to young children and sold in unlabeled bins.
- Toy manufacturers continue to make toys that may pose choking hazards, as they barely pass the small parts ban test designed to protect children under three.

¹ Miracle-Ear Children's Foundation, quoted by Karen A. Bilich, "Protect your Child's Hearing," <http://www.americanbaby.com/ab/CDA/featureDetail/0,1349,1896-3,00.html?s=159>, accessed 10 November 2002.

- No online toy retailers display the CSPA statutory choke hazard warning, legally required on product packaging in stores. We found only 2 out of 45, or 4 percent, of the online retailers we surveyed use non-statutory warnings and that none display these warnings consistently. Our study also found that 32 percent of the web sites analyzed (7/22) post toys in inappropriate age categories.
- Toy manufacturers are over-labeling toys by placing choke hazard warnings on items that do not contain small parts. We are concerned that this will diminish the meaning of the labels, making them less useful to parents.
- Too many toys do not have manufacturer information on them, making it difficult for consumers and government officials to identify and recall unsafe products.

Recommendations

To Consumers and Parents: Be vigilant this holiday season and remember:

- 1) The CPSC does not test all toys.
- 2) Not all toys available meet CPSC regulations.
- 3) Toys that meet all CPSC regulations may still pose hazards, ranging from choking and hearing loss to chemical exposure.
- 4) Online toy retailers do not provide the same safety warnings that are legally required on the packaging of toys sold in stores.

To the CPSC:

- 1) Reexamine the parameters by which toys are judged for age appropriateness.
- 2) At a minimum, ban phthalates from toys intended for children ages three and under, as other jurisdictions have already done. Preferably, as PIRG and other groups requested in a 1998 petition, ban phthalates from toys intended for children five and under.
- 3) Change the small-ball rule to include small round objects and enlarge the size of the small parts test tube.
- 4) Ask online toy retailers to display safety warnings required on toy packaging on their websites and monitor compliance with this request.
- 5) Require manufacturers to label toys, not merely packaging, with manufacturer identification.
- 6) Limit the level of sound that toys can produce to 85 decibels.

To Toy Manufacturers:

- 1) Aim for 100 percent compliance with toy regulations.
- 2) Eliminate phthalates from toys intended for children under five years old, or at a minimum eliminate phthalates from toys intended for children under three, as some companies have already done. Disclose the use of phthalates and other chemicals in toys intended for older children.
- 3) Reexamine the parameters with which toys are judged for age appropriateness.
- 4) Use statutory choke hazard warnings on retail toy websites.
- 5) Put manufacturer identification on toys, not just packaging.
- 6) Do not make toys that produce sounds louder than 85 decibels.

To Toy Stores:

- 1) Clearly label bins containing small toys, or the toys within the bins, with appropriate warnings.
- 2) Consider the height of bins containing toys with small parts. Make sure they are high enough that children under three cannot reach them.
- 3) Make sure all balloons are packaged with a CSPA warning requirement. Never place loose balloons in bins. Do not sell balloons aimed at an age-inappropriate audience.
- 4) Display mandatory CSPA hazard warnings on websites.

Introduction

Toys should entertain and educate children; however, poorly designed and constructed toys can cause injury and even death. According to the most recent data from the CPSC, at least 17 children, none older than seven years old, died in 2000 while playing with toys.² Of the 248,000 people estimated to have been treated in hospital emergency rooms in 2001 for toy-related injuries, 76,937 (31 percent) were under five years old.³

Since 1986, PIRG has conducted toy safety research and education projects to avoid such tragic and preventable deaths. The PIRGs have a well-established record as watchdogs for identifying unsafe toys. PIRG toy safety reports over the last sixteen years have led to more than 100 corrective actions by the CPSC and manufacturers.

Much of PIRG's advocacy has focused on the leading cause of toy deaths: choking. Despite federal regulations designed to reduce deaths from choking associated with toys, at least 293 children have choked to death on children's products since 1980, a rate of about 15 deaths a year.

Choking Hazards

Regulatory History

In 1979, the CPSC banned the sale of toys containing small parts if they were intended for use by children under the age of three, regardless of age labeling. A small part was defined as anything that fit inside a choke test cylinder, which has an interior diameter of 1.25 inches and a slanted bottom with a depth ranging from 1 to 2.25 inches. If any part of the product – including any parts that separate during use and abuse testing – fits inside the test tube, the product is a choking hazard and is banned for children under the age of three.

The new regulations, however, were not entirely effective; some manufacturers attempted to circumvent the small parts ban by labeling products intended for children under three for “ages three and up.” This allowed parents to misinterpret these labels as recommendations, rather than warnings, and to purchase such toys anyway for children under three. The 1979 legislation exempted a significant choking hazard, balloons, from any sort of warnings or regulations. It also became apparent that small balls that passed the small parts test could still pose a choking hazard, as they could still block a child's airway.

Throughout the 1980s, consumer groups lobbied Congress and the CPSC to increase the size of the small parts test and to require an explicit choke hazard warning on toys intended for older children, if the toys contained banned small parts. A 1992 campaign led by ConnPIRG and other child safety advocates resulted in a tough choke hazard warning label law that took effect in Connecticut on January 1st, 1993. The Connecticut law laid the foundation for a federal

² Joyce McDonald, “Toy Related Deaths and Injuries, Calendar Year 2000,” CPSC Memorandum, 5 November 2001.

³ “NEISS Data Highlights – 2001,” *Consumer Product Safety Review* 7.2 (Fall 2002): 3.

standard, and in 1994, Congress finally passed PIRG's priority child safety proposal, the Child Safety Protection Act of 1994 (CSPA).

The CSPA required choke hazard labels on toys, balloons and marbles intended for children under six if they contained banned small parts and increased the size of the small ball test from 1.25 inches to 1.75 inches. The Child Safety Protection Act was signed into law by President Clinton on June 16, 1994, and took effect on January 1, 1995. Final CPSC regulations took effect August 28, 1995.

Requirements of the 1994 Child Safety Protection Act

The 1994 Child Safety Protection Act (CSPA) mandated the following warning labels on the following categories of products:

Small Parts: The CSPA requires that toys intended for children between the ages of three and six years old that contain small parts include the following explicit choke hazard warning:



Toys that have play value for children under three – i.e., have soft, rounded edges, simple construction, and bright primary colors -- are banned if they contain small parts.

Small Balls: The 1994 CSPA also increases the size of banned small balls. Round objects are more likely to choke children because they can completely block a child's airway.

Any small ball intended for children older than three must include the following warning:



Any toy intended for children between three and six years old that contains a small ball must include the following warning:



Marbles: Any marble intended for children older than three must include the following warning:



Balloons: Balloons pose a grave choking hazard to children, causing more choking deaths than any other children's product. Almost half (46 percent) of the choking fatalities reported to the CPSC have involved balloons. At least 57 children have died from balloons since 1990. (See Appendix 2 for data on toy related deaths). PIRG's list of dangerous toys includes balloons marketed for young children as well as unlabeled balloons that are still on store shelves.

The 1994 CPSA requires the following choke hazard warning on all balloons:



CHOKING HAZARD – Children under 8 yrs can choke or suffocate on uninflated or broken balloons. Adult supervision required. Keep uninflated balloons from children. Discard broken balloons at once.

Bins and Vending Machines: Finally, the CPSA requires choke hazard labels on bins and vending machines. Toys or small balls that require labels are sold in vending machines or unpackaged in bins, these vending machines and bins must contain these same statutory warnings.

Toy Survey Findings and Recommendations on Choking Hazards

Overall, toy and party stores are doing a better job of how they market small balls, balloons, small toys or toys with small parts, ensuring that either that the bin in which the toy is sold or the toy itself is labeled with a choke hazard warning label. Yet even with these improvements, PIRG researchers still found toys for children under three with small parts; toys for children under six without the statutory choke hazard warning; toys that barely pass the small parts test; unlabeled small balls; and balloons printed with messages appealing to young children and sold loose in bins without choke hazard warnings. (See Appendix 1 for examples of potential choking hazards).

PIRG recommends that parents to use a choke testing tube or a cardboard toilet paper roll to test small toys and parts; make sure that balls given to children younger than three are at least 1.75 inches in diameter; and never let children younger than 8 play with latex balloons.

Phthalates in Children's Toys

Parents and other consumers should not purchase soft plastic polyvinyl chloride (PVC) toys that contain phthalates for children five years old and under. Until 1998, PVC was commonly used to make bath toys, teething rings, bath books, and other toys for infants and toddlers. In the words of a toy industry website, PVC is used to make toys because “it can be used for both flexible and rigid applications... withstand household cleaners... and its favorable cost gives toy manufacturers a decided advantage in a highly competitive market.”⁴

PVC is hard and brittle, so manufacturers add a class of chemical called phthalates to “plasticize” or soften the material. The most common phthalate used by toy manufacturers is diisononyl phthalate, or DINP. Testing has shown that these phthalates are not “bound” to the plastic, but leach out of it over time. Chewing and sucking on toys during play can increase the rate at which these toxic chemicals are released and increase children’s exposure to them. Tests commissioned by Greenpeace in 1998 found that toys might contain as much as 40 percent DINP by volume.⁵ The only effective way to determine if a specific toy contains PVC and phthalates is

⁴ “Why Vinyl is a Leading Material for the Toy Industry,” www.vinyltoys.com, accessed 31 October 2002.

⁵ Joseph Di Gangi, Ph.D, “Warning: Children at Risk, Toxic Chemicals Found in Vinyl Children’s Products,” Greenpeace USA, November 1998.

to call the company directly (see Appendix 5 for a representative list of toy companies and their use of phthalates).

Phthalates are suspected to cause adverse human health effects

Phthalates are far from benign; they are probable human carcinogens and have some of the characteristics of endocrine disrupters, chemicals that cause reproductive abnormalities. They have also been linked to kidney and liver damage. Very little is known about the effects of phthalates on humans. Researcher Michael A. Babich, Ph.D., concluded that the most common phthalate in children's products, DINP, is in fact a "poorly defined mixture of isomers of dinonyl phthalate and related compounds. DINP obtained from different manufacturers or processes may differ in isomeric composition and toxicity."⁶ Of the hundred or more isomers or types of DINP, only a few have been thoroughly tested. Of the others, Babich concluded: "one or more existing types of DINP for which data are unavailable could also be more toxic and/or carcinogenic."⁷

U.S. and European Response

In response to the health risks associated with phthalates, some European governments and organizations have banned phthalates for use in children's products. These countries include Austria, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Mexico, Norway, and Sweden. Canada issued a national health advisory on phthalates; Belgium and the Netherlands asked manufacturers to remove vinyl toys from their shelves; and the European Union is currently considering a ban on phthalates in children's products.¹⁰

The response of American agencies to the risk of phthalates has been less decisive. In November 1998, PIRG and eleven other consumer and environmental groups filed a petition urging the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission to ban toys containing phthalates intended for children five years and under. The CPSC responded by calling for further study to assess phthalate toxicity to humans. The Commission authorized a Chronic Hazard Advisory Panel (CHAP) to examine the existing scientific data concerning the potential risks of phthalates to humans and to specifically assess whether phthalates pose a human cancer risk.

The CHAP finished its report in June 2001 and concluded that while the majority of children would not be adversely affected by DINP, "there may be a DINP risk for any young children who routinely mouth DINP-plasticized toys for seventy-five minutes per day or more."¹¹

The CPSC's second response to the petition filed by PIRG and other groups was to request that the toy industry voluntarily remove phthalates from rattles and teething rings, even though the petition filed by PIRG and other groups requested that the CPSC ban the use of phthalates in all toys for

⁶ Michael A. Babich, Ph.D., "Preliminary Hazard Assessment of Diisononyl Phthalate (DINP) in Children's Products," CPSC Memorandum, 10 March 1998, 1.

⁷ Ibid.

¹⁰ "Countries that Have Acted to Control Phthalates in Toys," National Environmental Trust, <http://environnet.policy.net/health/products/toxict toys/factsheets.vtml>, accessed 11 November 2002.

¹¹ *Report to the U.S. Product Safety Commission by the Chronic Hazard Advisory Panel on Diisononyl Phthalate (DINP)*, June 2001, 24.

children five years old and under. Most toy companies have complied with the CPSC request; many toy companies are planning to or already have eliminated phthalates from production, surpassing the CPSC's voluntary ban. Some companies are using substitutes like ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA) instead of soft PVC. EVA does not have the safety concerns associated with PVC; it can be used without a plastic softener, thus eliminating the need phthalates entirely. Still other toy companies have stopped manufacturing teethingers and rattles.

No toy company, however, has recalled mouthing toys containing phthalates. These toys are still on the shelves and available to consumers. Despite the substantial body of evidence suggesting that phthalates may endanger children's health, toy companies continue to assert that they have eliminated phthalates from production because of "consumer concern," not any danger from phthalates themselves. Toy companies and the CPSC have also used only a narrow definition of "mouthing toys," defining them only as teethingers and rattles. Other toys that children chew on – such as bath books or soft vinyl blocks – are still on the market and available to consumers.

1998 Phthalate Petition: The CPSC's Response

At the writing of this report, the CPSC had scheduled a meeting on November 8, 2002 to consider petition HP-99, which was filed by PIRG and eleven consumer groups in 1998 and urged the CPSC to ban the use of phthalates in toys for children under five years old. The Commission briefing on the petition concludes that "oral exposure to DINP from mouthing soft plastic toys... is not likely to present a health hazard to children" and that "since children mouth other children's products less than they do toys, teethingers and rattles... staff does not believe that other children's products are likely to present a health hazard to children."¹² Finally, the Commission staff:

"recommends that the Commission deny the petition and decline to issue the national health advisory.... [T]he staff believes that there is no demonstrated health risk posed by PVC toys or other products intended for children five years of age and under and thus, no justification for either banning PVC use in toys and other products intended for children five years of age and under or for issuing a national advisory on the health risks associated with soft plastic toys."¹³

PIRG strongly disagrees with the recommendation made by the CPSC staff and believes that banning phthalates in products for children under the age of five and issuing a national health advisory is the proper response to the presence of phthalates in children's products.

The Precautionary Principle

Laws which regulate human and environmental exposure to hazardous substances generally take one of two possible approaches -- "better safe than sorry" or "innocent until proven guilty." PIRG believes, especially when it comes to children's risks and exposure, that a precautionary

¹² Marilyn L. Wind, Ph.D, "Response to Petition HP 99-1: Request to Ban PVC in Toys and Other Products Intended for Children Five Years of Age and Under," August 2002, 10.

¹³ Ibid 16-17.

¹⁴ Michael A Babich, Ph.D, "Preliminary Hazard Assessment of Diisononyl Phthalate (DINP) in Children's Products," CPSC Memorandum, 10 March 1998, 1.

¹⁵ Ibid.

"better safe than sorry" approach should guide risk management and regulatory decisions. This means that the issue of safety should be thoroughly considered before human and environmental exposures are permitted. Where there is some evidence of human or environmental toxicity – as in the case of phthalates -- this approach demands that exposures be avoided and minimized.

Viable Alternatives to Phthalates.

Ethylene vinyl acetate, or "EVA," is being used by some companies as a replacement for soft PVC. Because it does not need a plastic softener, EVA lacks the safety concerns of PVC softened with phthalates. Other companies have switched to polyethylene or other plastic polymers that do not require phthalates. The existence of safer alternatives already in commercial use means that there is no defensible reason for manufacturers to continue using PVC and phthalates in their children's products and no defensible reason for the CPSC to continue to allow their use.

Toy Survey Findings and Recommendations on Phthalates

This year PIRG researchers were able to find a number of soft bath books containing phthalates; a survey of toy companies found that while most toy manufacturers have phased phthalates out of teething and mouthing toys, many still manufacture other toys for young children that contain phthalates. (See Appendix 1 for examples of toys containing phthalates; see Appendix 6 for a list of toy companies and their policies regarding phthalates.) **PIRG urges parents to keep toys known to contain phthalates away from children under three, especially teething and mouthing toys.**

Dangerously Loud Toys

Every day, almost 140 million Americans experience noise levels that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) categorizes as “annoying or disruptive.”¹⁶ Karen A. Bilich writes that children “are especially vulnerable to noise induced hearing loss – which often happens gradually and without pain – from overexposure to noise.”¹⁷ Almost 15 percent of children ages 6 to 17 show signs of hearing loss, according to a 1998 study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. However, at this time there are no federal regulations in the United States that limit the noise levels of toys. The European standard is inadequate because it sets the sound threshold too high at 115 decibels, at which an exposure of less than 30 seconds can cause hearing loss.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) reports that prolonged exposure to sounds at 85 decibels or higher can result in hearing damage.¹⁸ The American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Campaign for Hearing Health also use 85 decibels as a threshold for dangerous levels of noise. The National Campaign for Hearing Health, in its *Toxic Noise Guidelines*, lists the following relationships between decibel levels and times of exposure:¹⁹

- 85 decibels: Exposure over an 8-hour period cause hearing loss.
- 85-90 decibels: Exposure over 2 hours causes hearing loss.
- 90-100 decibels: Exposure over 1-2 hours causes hearing loss.
- 100-110 decibels: Exposure between 2 and 15 minutes causes hearing loss.
- 110-120 decibels: Exposure less than 30 seconds causes hearing loss
- 120 decibels: Exposure less than 30 seconds causes hearing loss.
- 130 decibels: Any exposure will result in permanent hearing loss.

Toy Survey Findings and Recommendations on Noise Hazards

With the critical assistance of a product safety investigator from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, PIRG was able to test the sound levels of toys using a decimeter microphone. The investigator visited toy stores in October 2002 and used a decimeter to obtain the decibel readings of toys and identify toys that present potential hearing loss dangers to children. With the assistance of the researcher, PIRG was able to identify toys that produce sounds louder than 95 decibels. (See Appendix 1 for examples of loud toys).

To protect children from dangerously loud toys, PIRG supports the recommendations of the League for the Hard of Hearing:

- If a toy sounds too loud for you in the store, don’t buy it. Children are even more sensitive to sound than adults.

¹⁶ Karen A. Bilich, “Protect Your Child’s Hearing,” *American Baby*, 9 August 2001.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ OSHA Noise Exposure Standard, 39 FR 23502 (as amended) section 19010.95

¹⁹ National Campaign for Hearing Health, “Toxic Noise, Are You at Risk?”

http://www.hearinghealth.net/media/files/factsheets/toxicnoise/toxic_noise1.pdf, accessed 10 November 2002.

- Put masking tape over the speakers of any toys you already own that are too loud. This will reduce the noise levels of the toys.
- Remove the batteries from loud toys.
- Report a loud toy to the CPSC.

Other Toy Hazards

This year, PIRG identified three other hazards: 1) children's cosmetics containing dibutyl phthalate and xylene, 2) unlabeled mobiles, and 3) injuries related to scooters. In years past, we also have identified pull toys posing a strangulation hazard and children's cosmetics containing toluene. This year, PIRG researchers did not find toys posing those hazards; however, this does not mean that they are off the shelves. Consumers should be aware of these potential hazards.

Toxics in Children's Cosmetics

This year, PIRG found a children's nail polish containing dibutyl phthalate, or DBP. DBP has been linked to reproductive damage, mutations, skin and respiratory irritation, and may affect the nervous system.²⁰ People can be exposed to DBP by inhalation or from skin contact.

PIRG also found a children's cosmetic kit containing xylene. Xylene, also known as xylol or dimethyl benzene, is used as a solvent, in drugs, dyes, insecticides, lacquers and enamels, and in gasoline for airplanes.²¹ Exposure to xylene can damage the liver and kidneys; cause headaches, nausea, and vomiting; and irritate the skin, eyes and throat. Repeated exposure to xylene can affect memory and concentration; it is also narcotic in high concentrations.²²

In previous years, PIRG has found children's cosmetics containing toluene. Toluene, also called methyl benzene, is a colorless flammable liquid.²³ Many companies use toluene as an additive in aerosol sprays, paints, spot removers, cosmetics, and perfumes. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, exposure to toluene occurs when people using products that contain toluene breathe it in, consume it, or absorb it through skin contact.²⁴ Toluene can irritate the nose, throat, and eyes; cause dizziness, lightheadedness, and unconsciousness at high concentrations; and cause damage to the liver and kidneys.²⁵

PIRG urges parents to carefully read the labels and ingredients of children's products and urges parents to purchase only non-toxic nail polish and makeup kits, craft kits and other products.

²⁰ *Hazardous Substance Fact Sheet: Di-n-butyl Phthalate*, New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services Fact Sheet, Revised June 2001, <http://www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/rtkweb/0773.pdf>

²¹ *Hazardous Substance Fact Sheet: Xylene*, New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services Hazardous Substance Fact Sheet, Revised May 1998, <http://www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/rtkweb/2014.pdf>

²² www.epa.gov/grt/akes/seahome/housewaste/house/toluenex.htm. Accessed 4 November 2002.

²³ *Chemicals in the Environment: Toluene* (CAS NO. 108-88-3), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, August 1994.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ *Hazardous Substance Fact Sheet: Toluene*, New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, Revised August 1998. www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/rtkeb/1866.pdf.

Crib Mobiles

This year, PIRG found a mobile without a statutory strangulation hazard warning. Mobiles present a special hazard for infants; around the age of five months children become more mobile and begin to push themselves up on their hands and knees. At that point, mobiles left within reach of a child become hazardous; a child may be able to entangle herself in them, but lack the physical strength or motor skills to untangle herself. The CPSC has recalled nine crib mobiles since 1980; five of these were due to strangulation hazards. At least two children have strangled on crib mobiles since 1980.²⁶ According to the voluntary standard published by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), crib mobiles should be labeled with the following warning: "Caution: possible entanglement injury: keep toy out of baby's reach. Remove mobiles from crib or playpen when baby begins to push up on hands and knees."²⁷

PIRG recommends that parents and consumers look for mobiles with the proper label, and remove mobiles from cribs when children begin to push themselves up on their hands and knees or after they reach the age of five months, whichever comes first.

Scooters

Popular lightweight scooters, which first entered the U.S. market in 1999, pose a serious threat of injury to children. According to CPSC data, injuries associated with non-powered scooters have increased dramatically. From January 2000 through December 31, 2000, CPSC estimates there were about 40,500 emergency room treated injuries associated with scooters. In August 2001, CPSC estimated that between January 2001 and July 2001, there were more than 68,530 emergency room-treated injuries caused by scooters. About 85 percent of the injuries were to children younger than 15 years old. From January through August of 2001, the CPSC had received word of 11 deaths related to scooters.²⁸

In addition, the number of injuries related to motorized scooters is increasing. Motorized scooters are similar to unpowered scooters, but are equipped with either a small 2-cycle gasoline engine or an electric motor and a battery. Some manufacturers are retrofitting stocks of regular scooters with electric motors. For the first seven months of 2001, CPSC reported 2,250 emergency room-treated injuries due to motorized scooters. During the same period in 2000, there were 1,460 injuries reported. A total of 4,390 injuries were reported in 2000, a 200 percent increase from 1999. Thirty nine percent of those injuries happened to children under 15 years of age. The CPSC received reports of three deaths relating to motorized scooters from January through August of 2001.²⁹

To prevent injuries while using both motorized and non-powered scooters, PIRG joins the CPSC in its recommendations to consumers:

²⁶ "Stuffed Toy Mobiles Recalled," 21 November 1979, <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml79/79065.html>; "Stuffed Animal Mobiles Recalled Because of Strangulation Hazard – Recent Death Cited," 10 September 1987, <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml187/87048.html>, accessed 10 November 2002.

²⁷ ASTM F9.63 (96a). Section 5.11

²⁸ "Scooter Data," <http://www.cpsc.gov/PR/prscoot.html>, accessed 10 November 2002.

²⁹ "Motorized Scooter Use Increases and Injuries Climb," 22 August 2001, <http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSC/PUB/PREREL/prhtml01/01222.html>, accessed 10 November 2002.

- Wear proper safety gear, including a helmet that meets CPSC’s standard, knee and elbow pads, and wrist guards.
- Ride the scooters on smooth, paved surfaces without any traffic. Avoid streets, or surfaces with water, sand gravel or dirt.
- Do not ride the scooter at night.
- Check with local authorities for riding guidelines and restrictions for motorized scooters.
- Children under 12 should not ride motorized scooters.

Strangulation Dangers from Pull Toys

The American Society for Testing and Materials’ (ASTM) voluntary standard for pull toys states that in “pull toys intended for children under 36 months, cords and elastics greater than 12 inches long shall not be provided with beads or other attachments that could tangle to form a loop.”³⁰ The cord could become tangled around a child’s neck and be locked into place by the knob. The CPSC has the authority to enforce the ASTM voluntary standards and exercises that authority when necessary. The CPSC has recalled pull toys in the past, some of which were listed in our previous toy reports as a strangulation hazard.

PIRG recommends that parents should remove beads, knobs, or other attachments from their child’s pull toy cord if the cord is over 12 inches long.

Gaps Remaining in Toy Safety

Despite improvements in toy regulations and labeling requirements, parents should remain vigilant, even in light of the CPSC’s leadership. Consumers looking for toys still face an industry full of safety loopholes; once toys fall through, it is difficult to remove them from the market.

Loopholes in Toy Safety Regulation

Many companies do not adequately comply with the specifics of the law and allow potentially dangerous toys to be produced, marketed and sold. Toy manufacturers and importers continue to sell toys for children under three that violate the small parts regulations and pose choking hazards to children. A PIRG study of toys recalled by the CPSC in 2002 found that 71 percent were recalled as choking or aspiration hazards. (See Appendix 4 for data).

Even when companies do comply with the laws, the **current regulations do not address all of the choking hazards posed by toys.** Since 1980, at least 12 children have choked to death on balls ranging in size between 1.25” and 1.75” in diameter, the respective sizes of the old and new small ball test. While the choking test cylinder eliminates most objects small enough to enter a child’s lower throat and air passages, it does not eliminate all objects that can block the airway by obstructing the mouth and upper throat. Children continue to choke on toys that do not technically violate the CPSC regulation.

³⁰ ASTM F9.63 Section 4.13.2

Not all manufacturers are in full compliance with the CSPA warning label requirements. Many older toys are still on toy shelves, and neither Congress nor the CPSC requires manufacturers to update old packaging with new warnings. The 2002 PIRG toy list includes toys without choke hazard labels or with non-statutory labels.

The CPSC often lacks the resources to adequately monitor the thousands of new toy products introduced nationally. The FY03 budget proposed by the White House and the House of Representatives allows only \$56.767 million for the CPSC's budget, an allocation that falls \$1.05 million short of inflation and will reduce the agency's staff to 471, the smallest number of full-time staff it has ever employed.³¹ While the agency accomplishes an amazing amount of work on a small budget – saving the nation an estimated \$13 billion dollars in lives saved and injuries prevented each year³² – its shrinking budget will undoubtedly make oversight of all consumer products, including toys, that much more difficult.

A new factor complicating toy safety is the growing popularity of online toy retailers. The convenience of online toy stores draws increasing numbers of consumers each year: online sales of toys grew 22 percent from \$650 million in 1999 to \$793 million in 2000.³³ Yet these stores pose special difficulties for consumers; PIRG's second annual survey of toy websites found that **no online toy retailer consistently uses the mandatory age or choke hazard warning labels required by law on toy packages sold in stores.** (See Appendix 5 for PIRG's 2002 Survey of Online Toy Retailers).

Ineffective Toy Recalls

In 2001, PIRG researchers found a toy identical to toys already recalled by the CPSC. While CPSC has been aggressive over the past years in recalling unsafe toys, very few consumers who purchase recalled products – fewer than 20 percent -- ultimately find out about the recall. Even though CPSC occasionally announces recalls publicly through national television, national toy stores and pediatrician's offices, many consumers still do not find out about recalled toys.

Recalls are made more difficult by the fact that many consumers have difficulty determining whether they actually own the product being recalled. The failure of toy manufacturers to label their products – not just the packaging – with contact information or even the name of the manufacturer makes identifying recalled products difficult if not impossible. Manufacturers, on the other hand, rarely have any way of contacting consumers who have purchased their products. Very few consumers fill out "warranty" cards provided with some products, because the questions asked are so clearly intended for marketing purposes.

To more effectively communicate recalls to consumers, CPSC should mandate the creation of consumer registration cards that could be used to directly contact consumers about recall and safety actions taken by the CPSC and or the manufacturer of the product. Consumers must be

³¹ Rachel Weintraub, "US Consumer Product Safety Commission 2003 Budget Shortfall," Consumer Federation of America Memorandum

³² Thomas W. Murr, Jr., Acting Executive Director, "Fiscal Year 2003 Budget Request and Performance Plan," CPSC Memorandum, 10 July 2001.

³³ *Toy Industry Fact Book 2001-2002 Edition: Chapter Five – Industry Economics and Marketing*, Toy Industry Association, 2001 (citing an NPD Group Study).

guaranteed that their contact information be used solely for safety purposes and not for marketing. PIRG supports a petition filed by Consumer Federation of America in 2001, which requests that CPSC require manufacturers to institute the use of consumer registration cards. This petition also requests a regulation to require the name and contact information of the manufacturer, including an address and phone number or phone number and web address, on every product intended for children.

Positive Trends in 2002

While PIRG identified some improvements in 2002, parents should still be vigilant, especially for potential choke hazards. PIRG attributes improvements to the following factors:

- Since implementation of the 1994 Act, fewer banned toys or toys with obsolete labels remain on shelves, due to stock depletion.
- The intensive joint CPSC/U.S. Customs Import Surveillance Program has continued to help keep dangerous toys from entering the country. In November of 2002, for example, the CPSC announced that it was levying a fine of \$270,000 against STK International for repeatedly importing toys that violate the small parts ban, and for violations of the CPSC's labeling and testing requirements for children's art materials. The fine is the largest ever against a company for violating the small part ban; the case also marks the first time both criminal and civil penalties have been levied against a company for toy-related violations.³⁴
- Under pressure to improve their toys, responsible manufacturers have worked with the American Society for Testing and Materials on a voluntary standard for small action figures that took effect in 1996, requiring such pre-school figures to not only be larger than the choke tube, but also be blocked by a 1.68 inch diameter hole in a template. Figures no longer resemble the old "peg" or wine-cork shape of the older Fisher Price Little People. In the past few years, PIRG has not found any of these older "little people" on the shelves.
- Continued education by the media, consumer groups and the CPSC has helped to increase public awareness.
- Despite failure of the Congress and CPSC to require that warnings appear in a certain type, size, and color, fewer toys are inconspicuously and improperly labeled.
- Many toy manufacturers have complied with the CPSC's request to voluntarily remove PVC and phthalates from teethingers and rattles, although old stock remains on shelves.
- A few toy companies are beginning to label their toys as PVC and phthalate free.
- At least three online toy retailers, including Toys R Us and Entirely Toys, are displaying some form of hazard warnings on the Internet.

³⁴ "California Company Pleads Guilty To Importing and Selling Dangerous Children's Toys," CPSC, 11 November 2002.

Appendices

The 2002 PIRG Trouble in Toyland Potentially Hazardous Toy List. These toys, found on store shelves in September and October of 2002, are examples of toys that are potentially hazardous to children. The list is not intended to be all-inclusive.

Deaths from Toys 1990-2001. Chart on deaths caused by toys based on data released from the CPSC.

List of Toys Recalled as a Result of PIRG Trouble in Toyland Reports (1988-2001). This list includes recalls and other remedial actions taken by CPSC, manufacturers and retailers.

PIRG's Survey of Online Toy Retailers. An analysis of the compliance of online toy retailers with statutory age and choking hazard warnings.

Toy Companies and their Policies Regarding Phthalates. In September and October 2002, PIRG conducted a telephone survey with some toy companies regarding their use of phthalates, primarily in mouthing toys. All toys listed on the toy list are based on manufacturer representations.

PIRG's Tips for Toy Safety. A quick summary of other CPSC toy regulations and ideas for consumers.

The 2002 PIRG Trouble in Toyland Potentially Hazardous Toy List

Category 1: Contains Small Parts. No CSPA Warning/Non-statutory Warning.

Sully and Boo doll. Item # DN 18602; Bar code: 41202224048

Manufacturer: Disney

Store: The Disney Store

City: Pentagon City, VA

Price: \$19.50

PROBLEM: Contains small parts that fit inside the choke tube; has play value for children under 3; has no CSPA choke hazard warning.

NOTE: PIRG identified this toy as a potential choking hazard and reported it to the CPSC, which in turn notified the manufacturer. We applaud the Disney Company for its prompt and voluntary recall action and removal of remainder of total of 14,500 units of this toy from Disney Store shelves. Consumers can obtain a full refund from Disney if they purchased the toy before the November recall.

To prevent consumers from confusing this toy with other Monsters, Inc. toys not subject to the recall: the only recalled toy is the 12-inch seated Sulley and Boo model. **This toy was only available in Disney Stores, where it sold for \$19.50 and has already been removed from shelves by Disney.** The tag on the toy includes the number "DN 18602." The recalled toy has **no** electronic components, is seated, **not** standing, and carries the Boo doll under its right arm. The Boo doll has life-like rooted hair in pigtails; its pink hair fasteners are small parts and can easily be removed. It was not available through the Disney catalogue, website, or any other outlet. Disney has assured us that remaining stock of this toy have been removed from stores. We know of no other hazards with any other Sulley version or Monsters, Inc. product currently available in Disney Stores or from other retailers.

**RECALLED
NOVEMBER 2002**

Clifford the Big Red Dog Wind-Up Toy. No Item #.

Manufacturer: Toy Island Manufacturing,

Store: KB Toys

Made in China

City: Tyson's Corner Center, McLean, VA

Price: \$1.99

PROBLEM: Contains small parts that fit inside the choke tube; has play value for children under the age of 3; has no CSPA choke hazard warning.

Lovely Kids jewelry set. No Item #.

Manufacturer: Unknown. Made in China.

Store: Value Mart

City: Silver Spring, MD

Price: \$1.50

PROBLEM: Contains small parts that fit inside the choke tube; has play value for children under the age of 3; has non-statutory choke warning.

NOTES: CSPA means Child Safety Protection Act of 1994, which requires specific statutory warnings on toys with small parts or small balls for children younger than 6 years old. Toys on this list are examples of potentially dangerous toys. **This list includes only examples from a survey conducted in September and October of 2002 and should NOT be regarded as all inclusive.** Consumers should read PIRG's "Tips for Toy Safety," available at www.toysafety.net, for more information.

Category 1: Contains Small Parts. No CSPA Warning/Non-statutory Warning.

Play Doh Party Pack with Cutters. Item # unknown.

Manufacturer: Hasbro

Store: Family Dollar

City: Santa Fe, New Mexico

Price:

PROBLEM: Contains small parts that fit inside the choke tube; has play value for children under the age of 3; has no CSPA choke hazard warning.

Educational Toy IQ 200 136-piece building block set. Item # 709.

Manufacturer: Unknown. Made in China.

Store: Variety Store

City: Washington, DC

Price: \$5.00

PROBLEM: No CSPA choke hazard warning; contains small parts that fit inside the choke tube; has play value for children under 6.

Hello Kitty 5-piece stamp set. No item #.

Manufacturer: Sanrio Co., Ltd

Store: Flights of Fancy

City: Washington, D.C.

Price: \$ 5.99

PROBLEM: No CSPA choke hazard warning; contains small parts that fit inside the choke tube; has play value for children under 6.

Lego racing car 25-piece building set. Labeled 1251: item # 4153053.

Manufacturer: The Lego Group

Store: KB Toys

City: Tyson's Corner Center, McLean, VA

Price: 3/\$5.00

PROBLEM: Non-CSPA choke hazard warning; has play value for children under six.

Category 2: Balloons

Happy 1st Birthday balloons. Item #55905

Manufacturer: Unique Industries, Inc.

Store: Yuhai Dollar Plus

City: Washington, D.C.

Price: \$1.00

PROBLEM: Has proper CSPA choke warning to keep balloons from children under 8, but is inappropriate because the targeted audience is younger than 8.

Happy 2nd, 3rd, 4th... Birthday balloons. Labeled "Eldo/Auto IK 01030."

Manufacturer: Pioneer Balloon Company

Store: Party N' Paper

City: Chevy Chase, MD

Price:

PROBLEM: Has proper CSPA choke warning to keep balloons from children under 8, but is inappropriate because the targeted audience is younger than 8.

NOTES: CSPA means Child Safety Protection Act of 1994, which requires specific statutory warnings on toys with small parts or small balls for children younger than 6 years old. Toys on this list are examples of potentially dangerous toys. **This list includes only examples from a survey conducted in September and October of 2002 and should NOT be regarded as all inclusive.** Consumers should read PIRG's "Tips for Toy Safety," available at www.toysafety.net, for more information.

Category 2: Balloons

Assorted balloons

Manufacturer: Unknown

Store: The Paper Store

City: Chevy Chase, MD

Price: \$1.00

PROBLEM: Sold loose in bins without choking hazard labels.

Category 3: Small Ball Ban Violation

Hello Kitty Super Bouncy Ball. Labeled 300 [92466-1] 3.25.

Manufacturer: Sanrio Co., Ltd.

Store: Zany Brainy

City: Alexandria, VA

Price: \$3.25

PROBLEM: Ball fails the small ball test, packaging lacks CSPA choke hazard warning.

Foam baseball. No Item #.

Manufacturer: Coolballs, Made in China

Store: Claire's Boutiques

City: Tyson's Corner Center, McLean, VA

Price: \$.99

PROBLEM: Ball fails the small ball test, sold unlabeled in unlabeled bins.

Two-color striped rubber balls

Manufacturer: unknown

Store: Flights of Fancy

City: Washington, DC

Price:

PROBLEM: Ball fails the small ball test, sold unlabeled in unlabeled bins.

Multi-colored bouncy balls.

Manufacturer: unknown

Store: Massachusetts Rest Area

City: N/A

Price: \$.25

PROBLEM: Ball fails the small ball test, sold unlabeled in unlabeled vending machine.

Clear ball with ring

Manufacturer: unknown

Store: Massachusetts Rest Area

City: N/A

Price: \$.25

PROBLEM: Ball fails the small ball test, sold unlabeled in unlabeled vending machine.

NOTES: CSPA means Child Safety Protection Act of 1994, which requires specific statutory warnings on toys with small parts or small balls for children younger than 6 years old. Toys on this list are examples of potentially dangerous toys. **This list includes only examples from a survey conducted in September and October of 2002 and should NOT be regarded as all inclusive.** Consumers should read PIRG's "Tips for Toy Safety," available at www.toysafety.net, for more information.

Category 4: Near-Small Parts

Lil' Chefs 50-Piece Play Food Set. Item # 9252.

Manufacturer: Geoffrey, Inc.

Store: Toys 'R Us

City: Seattle, OR

Price:

PROBLEM: This toy includes round plastic fruit that barely pass the small part test and fail the small ball test, demonstrating need to strengthen the small ball test to include rounded objects.

Lil' Chefs Play Food Oversized Bucket. Item # unknown.

Manufacturer: Geoffrey, Inc.

Store: Toys 'R US

City: Seattle, OR

Price:

PROBLEM: This toy includes round plastic fruit that barely pass the small part test and fail the small ball test, demonstrating need to strengthen the small ball test to include rounded objects.

Category 5: Lacks warning labels

Musical Mobile. No Item #.

Manufacturer: Unknown. Made in China.

Store: Distribuidora El Salvador Del Mundo

City: Washington, DC

Price: \$12.99

PROBLEM: No ASTM strangulation hazard warning that caregiver should remove mobile when child reaches 5 months old or begins to push self up on hands and knees.

Category 6: Projectile Toys

Special Agent set with dart gun, whistle, baton, badge and handcuffs. No Item: Bar Code has "KK-042" above.

Manufacturer: Unknown. Made in China

Store: King Discount

City: Washington, D.C.

Price: \$1.00

PROBLEM: The rubber suction cup can break off the darts, creating a sharp, hard projectile.

Category 7: Potentially Toxic Toys

Sanrio pink glitter nail polish. No item #.

Manufacturer: Sanrio Co., Ltd

Store: Flights of Fancy

City: Washington, D.C.

Price:

PROBLEM: Contains dibutyl phthalate. Studies have linked dibutyl phthalate to reproductive damage, mutations, and eye and skin irritation.

NOTES: CSPA means Child Safety Protection Act of 1994, which requires specific statutory warnings on toys with small parts or small balls for children younger than 6 years old. Toys on this list are examples of potentially dangerous toys. **This list includes only examples from a survey conducted in September and October of 2002 and should NOT be regarded as all inclusive.** Consumers should read PIRG's "Tips for Toy Safety," available at www.toysafety.net, for more information.

Category 7: Potentially Toxic Toys

Yob Cosmetic Set. Item # unknown.

Manufacturer: Geoffrey, Inc. for Toys ‘R Us **Store:** Toys ‘R Us

City: North Carolina

Price:

PROBLEM: Contains xylene, which can cause skin, eye, nose and throat irritation in the short term; in the long term, xylene can affect memory and concentration and damage the liver and kidneys.

***Little Squirts Little Fire Truck Book.* ISBN #: 0-375-81041-2**

Manufacturer: Random House, Inc.

Store: Kramerbooks and Afterwords

City: Washington, D.C.

Price: \$4.99

PROBLEM: Made out of PVC plastic, which contains phthalates.

***Little Squirts Baby’s Shower Book.* ISBN #: 0-375-81041-4**

Manufacturer: Random House, Inc.

Store: Kramerbooks and Afterwords

City: Washington, D.C.

Price: \$4.99

PROBLEM: Made out of PVC plastic, which contains phthalates.

***One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish Book.* ISBN #: 0-375-81164-8**

Manufacturer: Random House, Inc.

Store: Marshall’s

City: Silver Spring, MD

Price: \$ 3.99

PROBLEM: Made out of PVC plastic, which contains phthalates.

Category 8: Hazardous Noise Levels

Electronic Nursery Rhyme Bus

Manufacturer: Tek Nek Toys International, Inc. **Store:** Toys ‘R Us

City: Madison, WI

Price: \$19.99

Decibels: 97

PROBLEM: The National Academy of Pediatrics lists 85 decibels as the threshold for hearing loss. Noise levels between 90 and 100 decibels can cause hearing loss with 1-2 hours of exposure.

NOTES: CSPA means Child Safety Protection Act of 1994, which requires specific statutory warnings on toys with small parts or small balls for children younger than 6 years old. Toys on this list are examples of potentially dangerous toys. **This list includes only examples from a survey conducted in September and October of 2002 and should NOT be regarded as all inclusive.** Consumers should read PIRG’s “Tips for Toy Safety,” available at www.toysafety.net, for more information.

Category 8: Hazardous Noise Levels

Electronic School Bus

Manufacturer: Tek Nek Toys International, Inc. **Store:** Toys ‘R Us

City: Madison, WI

Price: \$19.99

Decibels: 96

PROBLEM: The National Academy of Pediatrics lists 85 decibels as the threshold for dangerous levels of noise. Noise levels between 90 and 100 decibels can cause hearing loss over 1-2 hours of exposure.

Fix It Motorcycle

Manufacturer: Empire Industries Inc.

Store: Toys ‘R Us

City: Madison, WI

Price: \$19.99

Decibels: 97

PROBLEM: The National Academy of Pediatrics lists 85 decibels as the threshold for dangerous levels of noise. Noise levels between 90 and 100 decibels can cause hearing loss with 1-2 hours of exposure.

Growing Smart Lap Top Computer

Manufacturer: Fisher-Price Little People

Store: Toys ‘R Us

City: Madison, WI

Price: \$29.99

Decibels: 100

PROBLEM: The National Academy of Pediatrics lists 85 decibels as the threshold for dangerous levels of noise. Noise levels between 90 and 100 decibels can cause hearing loss with 1-2 hours of exposure.

Learning Lessons Computer

Manufacturer: Fisher-Price Blue’s Clues

Store: Toys ‘R Us

City: Madison, WI

Price: Unknown

Decibels: 95

PROBLEM: The National Academy of Pediatrics lists 85 decibels as the threshold for dangerous levels of noise. Noise levels between 90 and 100 decibels can cause hearing loss over 1-2 hours of exposure.

NOTES: CSPA means Child Safety Protection Act of 1994, which requires specific statutory warnings on toys with small parts or small balls for children younger than 6 years old. Toys on this list are examples of potentially dangerous toys. **This list includes only examples from a survey conducted in September and October of 2002 and should NOT be regarded as all inclusive.** Consumers should read PIRG’s “Tips for Toy Safety,” available at www.toysafety.net, for more information.

Cyclone Fazer & Saber**Manufacturer:** Power Gear SRM**City:** Madison, WI**Decibels:** 101**Store:** Toys 'R Us**Price:** \$12.99

PROBLEM: The National Academy of Pediatrics lists 85 decibels as the threshold for dangerous levels of noise. Noise levels between 100 and 110 decibels can cause hearing loss over 2 to 15 minutes of exposure.

Typhoon Fazer & Saber**Manufacturer:** Power Gear SRM**City:** Madison, WI**Decibels:** 102**Store:** Toys 'R Us**Price:** \$9.99

PROBLEM: The National Academy of Pediatrics lists 85 decibels as the threshold for dangerous levels of noise. Noise levels between 100 and 110 decibels can cause hearing loss over 2 to 15 minutes of exposure.

Star Blaster Set**Manufacturer:** Power Gear SRM**City:** Madison, WI**Decibels:** 100**Store:** Toys 'R Us**Price:** \$19.99

PROBLEM: The National Academy of Pediatrics lists 85 decibels as the threshold for dangerous levels of noise. Noise levels between 100 and 110 decibels can cause hearing loss over 2 to 15 minutes of exposure.

Buzz Lightyear Blaster**Manufacturer:** Mattel-Disney-Pixar Toy Story 2**City:** Madison, WI**Decibels:** 96**Store:** Toys 'R Us**Price:** Unknown

PROBLEM: The National Academy of Pediatrics lists 85 decibels as the threshold for dangerous levels of noise. Noise levels between 90 and 100 decibels can cause hearing loss over 1-2 hours of exposure.

Puppy Phone**Manufacturer:** Leap Frog**City:** Madison, WI**Decibels:** 94**Store:** KB Toys**Price:** \$6.99

PROBLEM: The National Academy of Pediatrics lists 85 decibels as the threshold for dangerous levels of noise. Noise levels between 90 and 100 decibels can cause hearing loss over 1-2 hours of exposure.

NOTES: CSPA means Child Safety Protection Act of 1994, which requires specific statutory warnings on toys with small parts or small balls for children younger than 6 years old. Toys on this list are examples of potentially dangerous toys. **This list includes only examples from a survey conducted in September and October of 2002 and should NOT be regarded as all inclusive.** Consumers should read PIRG's "Tips for Toy Safety," available at www.toysafety.net, for more information.

Category 8: Hazardous Noise Levels

Musical Lights Phone

Manufacturer: Fisher Price 123 Sesame Street
City: Madison, WI

Store: KB Toys
Price: \$15.99

Decibels: 95

PROBLEM: The National Academy of Pediatrics lists 85 decibels as the threshold for dangerous levels of noise. Noise levels between 90 and 100 decibels can cause hearing loss over 1-2 hours of exposure.

Laser Rifle

Manufacturer: Agglo
City: Madison, WI

Store: KB Toys
Price: \$10.99

Decibels: 95

PROBLEM: The National Academy of Pediatrics lists 85 decibels as the threshold for dangerous levels of noise. Noise levels between 90 and 100 decibels can cause hearing loss over 1-2 hours of exposure.

Pulsating Fazer

Manufacturer: Power Gear SRM
City: Madison, WI

Store: KB Toys
Price: \$7.99

Decibels: 96

PROBLEM: The National Academy of Pediatrics lists 85 decibels as the threshold for dangerous levels of noise. Noise levels between 90 and 100 decibels can cause hearing loss over 1-2 hours of exposure.

Fire Engine Flashlight

Manufacturer: Playwell
City: Madison, WI

Store: KB Toys
Price: \$6.99

Decibels: 99

PROBLEM: The National Academy of Pediatrics lists 85 decibels as the threshold for dangerous levels of noise. Noise levels between 90 and 100 decibels can cause hearing loss over 1-2 hours of exposure.

NOTES: CSPA means Child Safety Protection Act of 1994, which requires specific statutory warnings on toys with small parts or small balls for children younger than 6 years old. Toys on this list are examples of potentially dangerous toys. **This list includes only examples from a survey conducted in September and October of 2002 and should NOT be regarded as all inclusive.** Consumers should read PIRG's "Tips for Toy Safety," available at www.toysafety.net, for more information.

TOY RELATED DEATHS 1990-2000

Compiled from CPSC Reports By PIRG

Toy Related Deaths - January 1990 - December 2000

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Category	Totals
CHOKING DEATHS													
Balloons	6	3	6	6	6	8	7	6	4	4	1	57	
Balls	2	2	3	6	4	2	0	3	1	4	2	29	
Marbles	0	2	1	0		1	0	0			1	5	
Toy Or Toy Part	6	6	1	4	3	1	3	2	3	1	2	32	
TOTAL CHOKING	14	13	11	16	13	12	10	11	8	9	6		123
Tricycles, Riding Toys													
Hit By Car/Truck	3	4	0	3	3	4	0		1	2	4	24	
Rode Into Pool	1	2	3	2	1	0	2		3	2	2	18	
Other- Falls, Etc.		2	1	0	0	2	0				2	7	
TOTAL RIDING TOYS	4	8	4	5	4	6	2	0	4	4	8		49
Toy Chests													
Lid Closed On Neck	2	2	1								1	6	
Trapped In Box	2	0	1	1				1		1		6	
TOTAL TOY CHESTS	4	2	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1		12
STRANGULATION													
Cords/Straps, etc.	1	1	3	2		1	1					9	9
OTHER TOY DEATHS													
	0	1	2	1	1	2	0	1	2	2	2	14	14
TOTAL TOY DEATHS													
	23	25	22	25	18	21	13	13	14	16	17	207	207
% BY CHOKING	61%	52%	50%	64%	72%	57%	77%	85%	57%	56%	35%		59%

Source: Consumer Product Safety Commission. The data for 2001 had not been released as of 11 November 2002.

All data are subject to change as additional reports are made to CPSC.

According to the CPSC, which knows of no biases in the collection of these data, it should be noted that these cases are neither a complete count nor a statistically valid sample of the toy-related deaths which have occurred in the United States.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL U.S. PIRG AT 202-546-9707

CPSC and Manufacturer Action on PIRG-Identified Potentially Dangerous Toys 1987-2001

Voluntary Recalls, Stop Sales, Manufacturing Process Change, Other Actions.

	Toy	Manufacturer, Location	Date Toy ID'd by PIRG	Action Taken by CPSC
1	Pop-Up Answer Phone	Larami Corp., Philadelphia, PA	OSPIRG Rpt Nov 1987	Voluntary Recall, Dec 1988
2	Roller Lisa Doll	Lovee Doll & Toy Co., Brooklyn, NY	OSPIRG Rpt Nov 1988	Voluntary Recall, June 1990
3	Disney Babies Spin Around Play House	Illco Toy Company, New York, NY	OSPIRG Rpt Nov 1988	Voluntary Recall, July 1989
4	L'il Tots Baby's First Gift Set	Retailer: McCrory Stores, Inc., York, PA	OSPIRG Rpt Nov 1988	Voluntary Recall, June 1989
5	Spring N' Bounce Car, #8491 & 8491S	Importer: McCrory Stores, Inc., York, PA	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1989	Voluntary Recall, Sept 1990
6	Eggscavators truck set, #187	Importer: Henry Gordy Intl, Plainfield,	NJ PIRG Rpt Nov 1989	Voluntary Recall, Apr 1990
7	Swimming Hippo, #11744	Retailer: Kay Bee Toy & Hobby Stores	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1989	Recalled Toy, PIRG ID'd on shelves
8	Dress Up Clown	Importer: Oriental Trading Co, Omaha, NE	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1989	Recalled Toy, PIRG ID'd on shelves
9	Wooden Train Set	Importer: Marks Intl, Ithaca, IL	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1989	Voluntary Recall, Mar 1990
10	Stuffed Dog	Retailer: The Amazing Store	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1989	Voluntary Recall, Mar 1990
11	Crawling Critter Push Toy	Steven Manufacturing Co.	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1989	Voluntary Recall, Apr 1990
12	Train Puzzle, GP 307	Nashco Products, Scranton, PA	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1990	Voluntary Recall, Feb 1991
13	Airplane Puzzle, GP 320	Nashco Products, Scranton, PA	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1990	Voluntary Recall, Feb 1991
14	Musical Farm BB4581	Battat, Inc., Plattsburgh, NY	OSPIRG Rpt, Nov 1990	Voluntary Recall, Apr 1991
15	Play Cars, model no. 25	Importer: McCrory, York, PA	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1991	Voluntary Recall, Dec 1991
16	Sesame Street Nursery Sets, #71700	Tara Toy, Hauppauge, NY	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1991	Voluntary Recall, Dec 1991
17	Symphony Loco, item #3037	Retailer: Value Merchants, Milwaukee, WI	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1991	Voluntary Recall, Dec 1991
18	Cats Pajamas, item #1162	North American Bear Co, Chicago, IL	OSPIRG Rpt, Nov 1991	Voluntary Recall, Jan 1992
19	Pull String Swimming Frog	Masudaya, Made in China	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1991	Voluntary Recall
20	Pull String Swimming Fish	Masudaya, Made in China	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1991	Voluntary Recall
21	Barnyard Sounds Play Set	Funrise, Inc., Woodland Hills, CA	OSPIRG Rpt, Nov 1991	Voluntary Recall
22	cow plush toy	Charm Co., Made in Korea	OSPIRG Rpt, Nov 1991	Voluntary Recall
23	pull-a-long bear on wheels	Pier 1 Imports, made in Sri Lanka	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1993	Voluntary Recall
24	pull-a-long elephant on wheels	Pier 1 Imports, made in Sri Lanka	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1993	Voluntary Recall
25	pull-a-long toy soldier on wheels	Pier 1 Imports, made in Sri Lanka	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1993	Voluntary Recall
26	3 Piece Toy Garden Set	Ohio Art Company, Bryan, OH	OSPIRG Rpt, Nov 1987	Stop Distribution Order, Summer 1988
27	Alice VanderBear, item #4152	North American Bear Co., Chicago, IL	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1989	In May 1990, manufacturer warned consumers about choking hazards

28	Donald Duck Plush Toy	Applause, Inc.	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1989	Manufacturer warned consumers about choking hazards
29	Jeep Jr. 4x4	Kransco Group/Power Wheels	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1990	Replaced snap-out reflectors with stickers.
30	Busy Bumpkins Stroller	Uneeda Doll Company, Inc., Brooklyn, NY	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1991	Stop Distribution
31	Airplane and truck bin toys	Prohoton Ind., Made in Taiwan	OSPIRG Rpt, Nov 1991	Stop Distribution
32	Musical Loco	Red Box, San Francisco, CA	OSPIRG Rpt, Nov 1991	Stop Distribution
33	Flexibears and Flexiblocks	Flexitoys, Auburn, CA	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1992	Manufacturer added choke hazard warning to label
34	Turbo Prop airplane	unknown, made in West Germany	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1992	Stop Distribution
35	Hippo Riding Trike	unknown, made in China	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1993	Stop Distribution
36	Radio Control fire chief/police car	Playskool-Hasbro, Pawtucket RI	AKPIRG, Spring 1994	Redesigned w/out button
37	Wooden Construction Crane	Unknown	PIRG Rpt Nov 1994	Stop Sale, Small Parts Violation
38	Wooden Push Truck	Unknown	PIRG Rpt Nov 1994	Stop Sale, Small Parts Violation
39	London Double Decker Bus	Isasca. IL	PIRG Rpt Nov 1994	Stop Sale, Small Parts Violation
40	Press and Go Choo Choo train	Unknown	PIRG Rpt Nov 1994	Stop Sale, Small Parts Violation
41	Little Balloony Faces	Estes Balloon Impressions	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1995	Label Violation, Remedial Order Issued
42	Piano Phone	Spains, China	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1995	Stop Sale, Small Parts Violation
43	Corrole Doll	Corrole SA France	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1995	Stop Sale, Small Parts Violation
44	Train	Brio, Sweden	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1995	Stop Sale, Small Parts Violation
45	Choo Choo Train Set	Gordy Toy Hong Kong	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1995	Stop Sale, Small Parts Violation
46	Press and Go Construction Truck	Unknown	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1995	Stop Sale, Small Parts Violation
47	Rolling Eye Within Liquid Ball	Unknown	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1996	Label Violation, Remedial Order Issued
48	NBA Party Favors	Pentech Intl, Edison NJ	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1996	Label Violation, Remedial Order Issued
49	Magic Capsules	Creative Discovery	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1996	Label Violation, Remedial Order Issued
50	Free Wheeling Dump Truck	Unknown	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1996	Stop Sale, Small Parts Violation
51	Baby Looney Tunes Cooling Ring Teether	Gerber	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1998	Mfg announced voluntary phthalate removal from teethers
52	Cool Ring Teether	First Years/Kiddie	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1998	Mfg announced voluntary phthalate removal from teethers
53	Funny Face Teether Rattle/ Disney Babies Mickey Collection	Playskool	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1998	Mfg announced voluntary phthalate removal from teethers
54	SofSport Teether	Safety 1st	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1998	Mfg announced voluntary phthalate removal from teethers
55	Sports Fan Water Teether	Safety 1st	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1998	Mfg announced voluntary phthalate removal from teethers

56	Floating Eyeball	Unknown	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1998	CPSC ordered retailer to label bins under
57	Sky Dancer	Galoob	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1995	Voluntary Recall, June 2000
58	Small Jeep	Unknown	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1999	Label Violation, Remedial Order Issued
59	Small Police Car	Unknown	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1999	Label Violation, Remedial Order Issued
60	Small Fire Engine	Unknown	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1999	Label Violation, Remedial Order Issued
61	Spider Rings	Unknown	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1999	Label Violation, Remedial Order Issued
62	Creepy Crawler Bears	Unknown	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1999	Label Violation, Remedial Order Issued
63	Translucent Salamanders and Insects	Unknown	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1999	Label Violation, Remedial Order Issued
64	Fire Bellied Toad Dimensional Puzzle	Ark Foundation Preservation Puzzles	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1999	Label Violation, Remedial Order Issued
65	Ball with Lightning Bolt and G	Unknown	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1999	Label Violation, Remedial Order Issued
66	Bouncing Ball with Bloodshot Eye	Unknown	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1999	Label Violation, Remedial Order Issued
67	Wooden Pull A-Long Duck	Papa Dons Toys	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1999	Stop Sale, ASTM Pull Toy Violation/ Mnf removed hazard
68	Wooden Pull A-Long Dinosaur	Papa Dons Toys	PIRG Rpt, Nov 1999	Stop Sale, ASTM Pull Toy Violation/ Mnf removed hazard
69	Wind Up Ducks	My Baby Products	PIRG Rpt Nov 2000	Stop Sale, Small Parts Violation
70	FAO Girl Jewelry/ Hair Box	FAO Schwarz	PIRG Rpt Nov 2000	Mfg announced stop sale and remedied label violation
71	Bear Stuff Tennis Racket and Balls	Build-A-Bear Workshop	PIRG Rpt Nov 2000	Label Violation, Remedial Order Issued
72	Bear Stuff Bat, Ball and Glove	Build-A-Bear Workshop	PIRG Rpt Nov 2000	Label Violation, Remedial Order Issued
73	Bear Stuff Teacher Set	Build-A-Bear Workshop	PIRG Rpt Nov 2000	Label Violation, Remedial Order Issued
74	Super Ninja Blow Dart Set	Unknown	PIRG Rpt Nov 2000	Stop Sale, Small Parts Violation
75	Party Favors – Jacks and Ball	CBI Distributing, Inc.	PIRG Rpt Nov 2000	Stop Sale, Small Parts Violation
76	Party Favors – Bead Kits	CBI Distributing, Inc.	PIRG Rpt Nov 2000	Stop Sale, Small Parts Violation
77	Party Favors—Smiley Face Rings	CBI Distributing, Inc.	PIRG Rpt Nov 2000	Stop Sale, Small Parts Violation
78	Party Favors – Bead Rings	CBI Distributing, Inc.	PIRG Rpt Nov 2000	Stop Sale, Small Parts Violation
79	Party Favors – stamp sets	CBI Distributing, Inc.	PIRG Rpt Nov 2000	Stop Sale, Small Parts Violation
80	Party Favors	CBI Distributing, Inc.	PIRG Rpt Nov 2000	Stop Sale, Small Parts Violation
81	Pop-Up Eyeball	Unknown	PIRG Rpt Nov 2000	Stop Sale, Small parts Violation.
82	Halloween Ring	Unknown	PIRG Rpt Nov 2000	Stop Sale, Small Parts Violation
83	Halloween Whistle	Unknown	PIRG Rpt Nov 2000	Stop Sale, Small Parts Violation
84	Animal Figurines	Unknown	PIRG Rpt Nov 2000	Stop Sale, Small Parts Violation
85	Plastic Baseball	Unknown	PIRG Rpt Nov 2000	Stop Sale, Small Parts Violation
86	Clear star Ball	Unknown	PIRG Rpt Nov 2000	Stop Sale, Small Parts Violation

87	Small Multi-colored Balls	Unknown	PIRG Rpt Nov 2000	Stop Sale, Small Parts Violation
88	100 Assorted Marbles	Craft Master Imports	PIRG Rpt Nov 2000	Stop Sale, Small Parts Violation
89	Assorted Marbles	Unknown	PIRG Rpt Nov 2000	Stop Sale, Small Parts Violation
90	(Plastic Ring)	Unknown		Stop Sale, Small Parts Violation
91	(Ring)	Unknown		Stop Sale, Small Parts Violation
92	(Plastic Pin)	Unknown		Stop Sale, Small Parts Violation
93	(Small Ball)	Unknown		Stop Sale, Small Parts Violation
94	(Rings)	Unknown		Stop Sale, Small Parts Violation
95	(Party Favors – Rings)	Unknown		Stop Sale, Small Parts Violation
96	(Party Favors – Rings)	Unknown		Stop Sale, Small Parts Violation
97	(arty Favors – Rings)	Unknown		Stop Sale, Small Parts Violation
98	(Party Favors – Tops)	Unknown		Stop Sale, Small Parts Violation
99	(Bear Stuff Whistle on Cord)	Build-A-Bear Workshop		Label Violation, Remedial Order Issued
100	(Bear Stuff Artset)	Build-A-Bear Workshop		Label Violation, Remedial Order Issued
101	(Bear Stuff Pearl Necklace)	Build-A-Bear Workshop		Label Violation, Remedial Order Issued
102	Toy – Unknown	Unknown	PIRG Rpt Nov 2001	Unknown
103	Toy – Unknown	Unknown	PIRG Rpt Nov 2001	Unknown
104	Toy – Unknown	Unknown	PIRG Rpt Nov 2001	Unknown

Toys in parentheses were recalled or corrected in 2001 as a result of PIRG action but were not featured in a PIRG report. Last year the CPSC took action on 3 toys in PIRG's 2001 Trouble in Toyland report. PIRG has filed a Freedom of Information Act request to obtain a list of specific toys.

For more information, contact U.S. PIRG at 202-546-9707

In September and October of 2002, PIRG staff conducted a survey of the following online toy retailers to see whether they included safety information like choke hazard warnings and manufacturer age recommendations, as well as whether the organization of the website would direct consumers towards age-inappropriate toys. The data in this table are a sample that reflects the PIRG staff's experience with the website; parents should contact online retailers if they have questions about a specific toy.

Company Name	Website	# of toys examined	Age labeling?	If yes, inappropriate toys?	Choke hazard warning?	Warning on same page?	Statutory warning?	Manufacturer's age recommendation included?
Action Figure Express	www.actionfigureexpress.com	5	No.		No.		No.	No.
Amazon / Toys R Us	www.amazon.com	25	Yes.	No.	1/25 toys included a choke hazard warning..	Yes.	No.	Yes.
American Girls Collection	www.americangirlstore.com	8	No.		No.		No.	No.
Amok Time	www.amoktime.com	4	No.		No.		No.	No.
Are You Game?	www.areyougame.com	6	Yes.	Yes. The toys labeled for children ages 3-6 include toys that would be inappropriate for 3-year-olds.			No.	Yes.
Ark Toys	www.arktoys.com	4	Yes.	No.	No.		No.	3/4 out of four toys reviewed included a manufacturer's age recommendation.
Best Toys	www.besttoys.org	6	No.		No.		No.	No.
Big Bad Toy Store	www.bigbadtoystore.com	6	No.		No.		No.	No.
Board Games Superstore	www.boardgames.com	6	No.		No.		No.	5/6 toys included the manufacturer's age recommendation.
Discovery Channel Store	http://shopping.discover.com	6	Yes.	Yes. The "preschool" section recommends toys, such as the Erector set ambulance, which is	No.		No.	Yes.

				recommended for children ages 4-8.				
Disney Store	www.disneystore.com	10	No.		No.		No.	Yes.
Dmart Express	www.dmartexpress.com	10	Yes.	No.	No.		No.	3/10 toys included the manufacturer's age recommendation.
Dollyrama	www.dollyrama.com	8	No.		No.		No.	No.
Ebay	www.ebay.com	15	No.	While e-bay does not sort toys based on age recommendations, PIRG found a number of recalled toys for sale on e-bay.	No.		No.	No.
Entirely Toys	www.vstore.com/vstoretoysus/entirelytoys	10	Yes.	No.	1/10 toys included a choke hazard warning.	Yes.	No.	3/10 toys included a manufacturer's age recommendation.
Etoys	www.etoys.com	10	Yes.	No.	No.		No.	6/10 toys included a manufacturer's age recommendation.
Excite Classifieds	www.classifieds2000.com	4	No.		No.		No.	No.
FAO Schwartz	www.fao.com	10	Yes.	No.	No.		No.	Yes.
Fisher Price	www.fisher-pricestore.com	14	Yes.	No.	No.		Yes.	Yes.
JC Penney	www.jcpenney.com	12	Yes.	Yes. Consumers can follow a link from the "3 n' 1 cruiser," listed for children under 1 year old, to the "Vtech Classmate Slate," recommended for children aged 4 and up.	No.		No.	Yes.
Kazoo Toys	www.kazootoys.com	14	Yes.	No.	No.		No.	Yes.
KB Toys	www.kbtoys.com	15	Yes.	PIRG found that toys	No.			10/15 toys reviewed

				recommended with other toys never had age recommendations.			No.	included a manufacturer's age recommendation.
Kids Village	www.kids-village.com	12	Yes.	No.	No.		No.	3/12 toys included an age recommendation.
K-Mart	www.bluelight.com	14	Yes	Yes. A search in the 18-36 months category will lead consumers to toys like the "Mike Wachowski" doll, recommended for ages 3+.	No.		No.	6/14 toys included a manufacturer's age recommendation.
La Toys	www.latoys.com	15	No.		No.		No.	6/15 toys included a manufacturer's age recommendation.
LEGO	www.lego.com	14	Yes.	No.	No.		No.	Yes.
Mastermind Toys	www.mastermindtoys.com	14	No.		No.		No.	Yes.
Museum Company	www.museumcompany.com	5	No.		No.		No.	3/5 toys included a manufacturer's age recommendation.
Once Upon a Time Toys	www.onceatoy.com	10	No.		No.		No.	Yes.
QVC	www.qvc.com	6	No.		No.		No.	Yes.
Sears	www.wishbook.com	10	No.		No.		No.	8/10 toys included a manufacturer's age recommendation.
Silly Putty	www.sillyputty.com	3	No.		No.		No.	Yes.
Smarter Kids	www.smarterkids.com	12	Yes.	No.	No.		No.	Yes.
Target	www.target.com	14	Yes.		No.			12/14 toys included a manufacturer's age recommendation.

				No.			No.	recommendation.
The Construction Site	www.constructiontoys.com	8	No.		No.		No.	6/8 toys included a manufacturer's age recommendation.
The FUNimation Store	www.dbzstore.com	5	No.		No.		No.	No.
Things from Another World	www.tfaw.com	5	No.		No.		No.	3/5 toys included a manufacturer's age recommendation.
Totally Fun Toys	www.totallyfuntoys.com	11	Yes.	No.	No.		No.	Yes.
Toy Bliss	www.toybliss.com	8	No.		No.		No.	4/8 toys included a manufacturer's age recommendation.
Toy Lodge	www.toylodge.com	12	Customers can shop by "infant" or "toddler."	Yes. Under "infant," PIRG found toys like the Tomy Melody Thomas the Tank Engine, labeled for children older than one year.	No.		No.	11/12 toys included a manufacturer's age recommendation.
Toy Wiz	www.toywiz.com	7	No.		No.		No.	No.
Toys 2 Wish 4	www.toys2wish4.com	10	Yes.	No.	No.		No.	Yes.
Toys N Joys	www.toysnjoys.com	5	No.		No.		No.	No.
Walmart	www.walmart.com	17	Yes.	No.	No.		No.	13/14 toys included a manufacturer's age recommendation.
Yahoo! Shopping	http://shopping.yahoo.com	5	Yes.*		No.		No.	4/5 toys included a manufacturer's age recommendation.

* While yahoo! Does allow consumers to search for toys by age, it also shifts consumers onto independent websites hosted on Yahoo!'s servers that do not sort toys by age level.

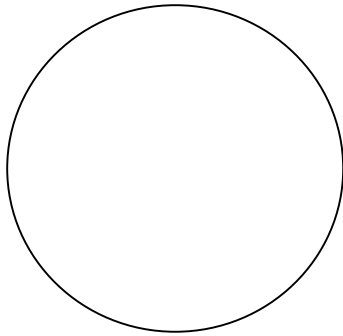
Toy Companies and Their Policies Regarding Phthalates

In September and October of 2002, PIRG staff conducted telephone interviews with the following toy companies concerning their use of phthalates in toys, especially toys intended for young children. All data in this table are based on manufacturer interviews. Parents should contact toy manufacturers to determine whether a given toy contains phthalates.		
Toy Company	Other Actions Taken/Policies Regarding Phthalates	Toys w/ Phthalates (toys marked with a * are listed in our report).
Baby's 'N Things (516) 624 – 2690	Products do not contain phthalates.	
Battat (800) 822 – 8828	PVC has been phased out of production.	None.
Brio (800) 558 – 6863	Products do not contain PVCs or phthalates.	None.
Chicco (732) 805 – 9200	Products do not contain PVCs or phthalates.	
Discovery Toys (925) 606 – 2600	Teethers and other mouthing toys have been phthalate free since 1998. Other toys may contain phthalates.	
Early Start (800) 631 – 1272	Products do not contain PVCs or phthalates.	None.
EvenFlo (800) 233 – 5921	Does not use phthalates in teethers or mouthing toys; other products may contain phthalates.	
The First Years (800) 533 – 6708	Products do not contain phthalates.	
Gerber (800) 443 – 7237	Products do not contain PVC or phthalates.	
Guidecraft (800) 544 – 6526	Products do not contain PVC or phthalates.	None.

Hasbro (800) 242 – 7276	Some toys may contain small traces of PVC.	
International Play Things (800) 445 – 8347	Products do not contain PVCs or phthalates.	None.
Kids II (770) 751 – 0442	Teething toys are phthalate free; phthalates may be present in other toys.	
Lamaze Infant Development/Learning Curve (800) 704-8697	Most toys are PVC and phthalate free.	
Lego Systems (860) 763 – 6731	The only LEGO products in which the phthalate DINP is used are SCALA doll heads (discontinued) and electronic cables, age graded for older children.	SCALA doll heads (discontinued) and electronic cables in LEGO systems intended for older children.
Little Tikes (800) 321 – 0183	Products have not contained phthalates since 1998.	
Manhattan Baby (800) 541 – 1345	No phthalates in products for children three and under; may be found in toys for children 3 and up.	
Mattel (800) 524 – 8697	Stopped using phthalates in teethingers, rattles and toys intended for children under 3, effective April 1, 1999.	Fisher-Price and Arco (divisions of Mattel) currently makes very few products where phthalates are part of the teething surface. They are: Fisher-Price Activity Butterfly #71108; Fisher-Price Activity Train Stroller #73709; Fisher-Price Cuddle Bunny Gift Set #73716; Mattel (Arco) Suction Rattles #66704; Mattel (Arco) Activity Surprise Mickey #69996.

Mega Bloks (800) 465 – 6342	Discontinued use of phthalates after 1998; “Baby Line” of soft blocks is PVC and phthalate free.	
My Baby Products (415) 564 – 5597	Products do not contain PVC or phthalates.	None.
Random House, Inc. 1-800-733-3000 or 1-800-726-0600	Company representative did not know whether products contained phthalates.	<i>*One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish</i> Bright and Early Bath Book; <i>*Lil’ Squirts Little Fire Truck</i> Book; <i>*Lil’ Squirts Baby’s Shower</i> Book;
Regent Baby Product Corp. (718) 465 – 6857 or (800) 424 -- BABY	Company representative did not know whether products contained phthalates.	
Safety First (800) 723 – 3065	Products do not contain PVCs or phthalates.	
Sassy (616) 243 – 0767	Phthalates phased out of teething, feeding products; phthalates only found in four bath books.	Bath books containing phthalates: <i>Who Loves Baby</i> photobook #844; <i>Bath Book</i> #141; <i>Hello Bee, Hello Me</i> #871; <i>Sassy Peek-a-Boo</i> Book #859.
Shelcore (800) 777 – 0453	Phthalates phased out of production since 1998.	
Small World Toys (310) 645 – 9680	Most items are phthalate-free; might still be found in toys for older children.	
Tiny Love/Maya Group Distributors (800) 843 – 6292	Tiny Love no longer carries mouthing toys.	
Tomy Corporation (949) 955 – 1030	Products do not contain phthalates.	

Small Ball Ban: 1.75 Inches



www.toysafety.net

The state PIRG toy safety website