



| **SAFE AT HOME IN 2025?**

**Injuries from hazardous consumer products hit 8-year high in 2024;
products from toys to tools to treadmills posed threats**

U.S. PIRG
Education Fund

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hit 8-year high in 2024;
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I EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

More injuries were linked to unsafe products in 2024 than in any of the previous seven years. A total of [869 injuries](#) were connected to products recalled during 2024, according to a U.S. PIRG Education Fund analysis of data from the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

That total is up dramatically from the [549 injuries](#) reported in 2023 and is [more than double](#) the number of injuries reported five years ago.

We wonder how many of those more than 800 injuries reported last year could have been avoided because of hazardous products that took months or years to recall, or because people may not have heard about recalls and continued to use the product.

There were [305](#) recall announcements in 2024 for items ranging from tools to toys to treadmills after the products were determined to be hazardous.

In addition to the injuries, [15 people died](#) in cases linked to recalled products. Some of the most disturbing incidents involved three brands of adult bed rails that entrapped older folks and were connected to six deaths, infant swings connected to five deaths and various electrical products connected to other deaths. Besides those 15 deaths, 10 other people died and 31 were injured [in cases linked](#) to products where the companies *wouldn't* agree to a recall. That left the CPSC with one option: issue an urgent warning, unless it chose a years-long court battle. Other sobering findings:

- [568 fires](#) or “thermal events” such as explosions were reported in connection with recalls. Fires stemmed from products including two brands of electric ranges, various [lithium-ion](#)

[batteries](#), [chargers](#) and [grass trimmers](#).

- [Nearly 90 products](#) were linked to injuries; 16 products involved 10 or more injuries.
- [Eight products](#) were linked to deaths: infant swings, spa pumps, portable power stations, bookcases, rechargeable lights and three brands of adult bed rails.
- Those fires, injuries and deaths were among more than [10,000](#) incidents reported in connection with products recalled in 2024. Less serious incidents included biometric gun safes that were opened by unauthorized users whose fingerprints weren't paired, including a [6-year-old boy](#) in one case, and reports of multiple bicycles where key parts of the frames separated.
- In addition to the 305 recalls, the CPSC in 2024 issued [63 warnings](#) about hazardous products after companies refused a recall. This compares with 38 warnings in 2023. The CPSC issued more warnings in 2024 than in the [previous nine years](#) combined. In six of the warnings in 2024, a total of 10 deaths and 31 injuries had been reported to the CPSC before it issued the announcements.

Widening the view, there were considerably more unsafe products than just the 368 that were recalled or featured in warnings.

In FY 2024, the CPSC issued about 2,000 [notices of violation](#) to importers and manufacturers, ordering actions including recalls, seizures, stopping sales and correcting future production. A significant number of the notices involved children's products or electrical products.

Violations included lead in children's products, banned hazardous substances, toy standards (ASTM F963) and requirements for immersion protection involving electrical products such as hair dryers.

Products named in violation notices rarely get recalled, even the ones where the CPSC has requested it.

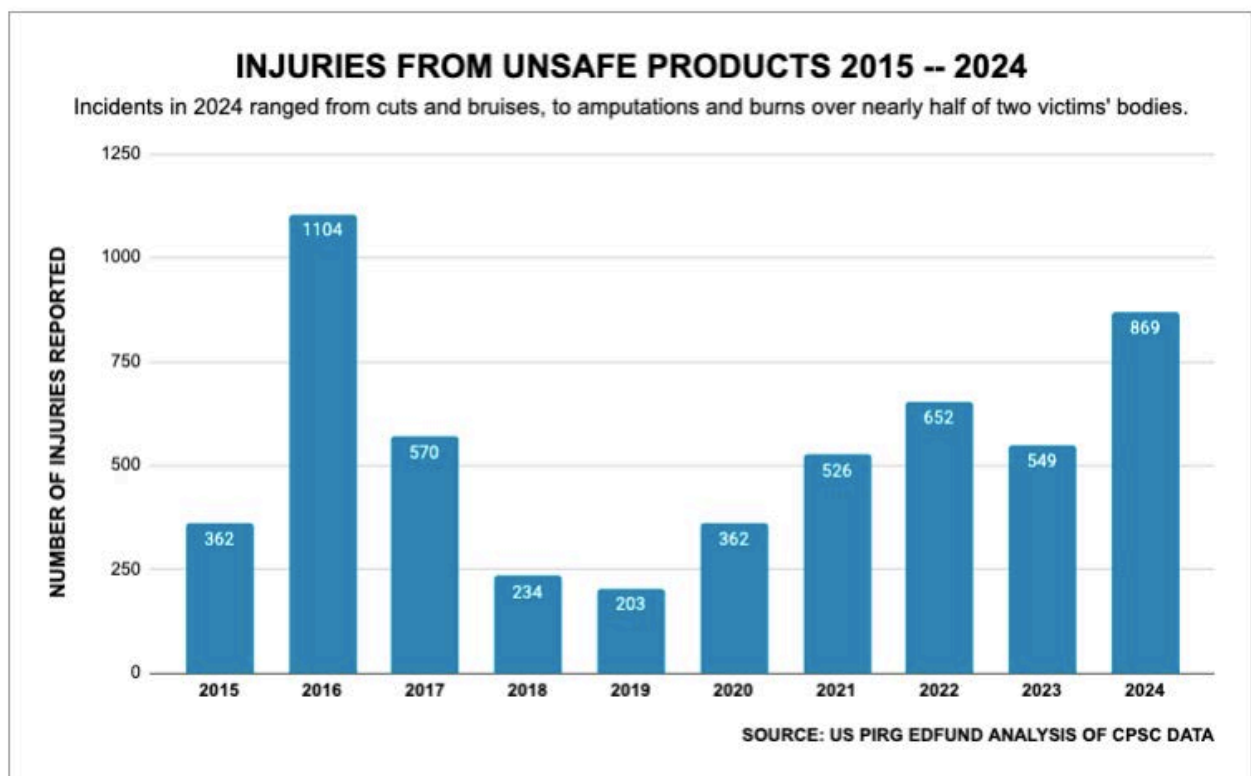
Another huge issue: As the popularity of online shopping continues to increase, the government faces other challenges.

Top of the list: How to increase the likelihood that products entering our country comply with U.S. safety standards. Second: How to better educate consumers about ways to shop smarter by focusing not just on price, but also the website's reputation, location and likelihood of refunding or replacing the product if it's defective.

One issue we'll address more in this report: When products are sold only online and found to be unsafe, online retailers are more likely to refuse to give consumers a refund, replacement or other remedy. Among the 63 warning notices targeting uncooperative companies in 2024, all but four products were sold only online, through a mix of U.S. and international websites.

In addition, among the recall notices, in three cases the companies initially agreed with a recall and then reneged, giving customers no option to get a refund, repair or replacement. All three of those products were manufactured in China and sold online through Amazon.

Many shoppers assume that if a product is for sale in a store or online, it must be safe. That of course isn't true, particularly because so much rides on companies' honesty and willingness to test products even when it's not required.



How do products get recalled? With rare exceptions, all recalls announced by the Consumer Product Safety Commission are voluntary by the company. Dangerous products are usually identified in one of three ways:

- The company identifies a defect through its own testing or monitoring after a product is offered for sale.
- Consumers complain to the company. (Companies are [required](#) to report serious injuries or incidents involving a product to the CPSC.)
- CPSC staff investigate incidents reported by doctors, fire officials, consumers or others on SaferProducts.gov. CPSC staff also do secret shopping, conduct testing and review death certificates and other records to spot possible problems.

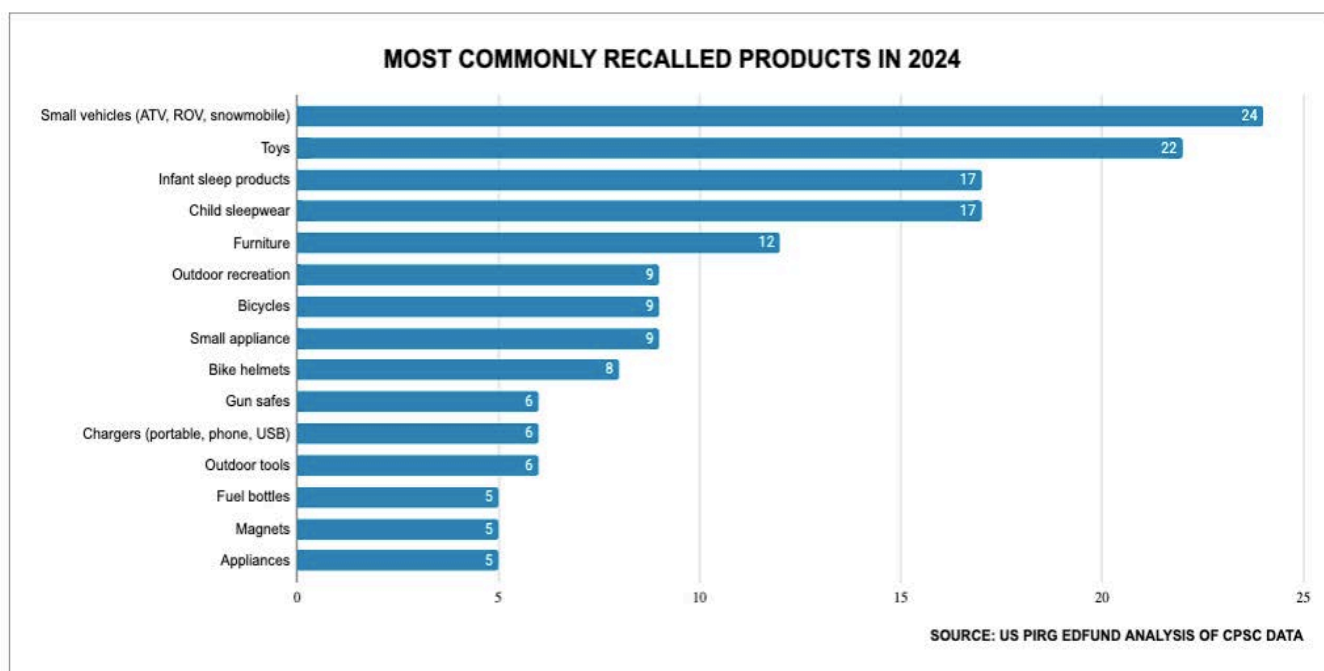
Once upon a time, the CPSC regulated about 15,000 types of products, such as bicycles, garage door openers and medication bottles. Those must meet [specific safety standards](#) that differ from product to product. That 15,000 figure doesn't include new inventions or laws.

There are strict regulations for all categories of [children's products](#) – meaning those "designed or intended primarily" for children 12 or younger. This covers toys, clothing and clothing and other items. They must meet standards for issues such as lead and phthalates, small parts and warning labels. The standards include third-party testing and certification.

So recalls can occur when testing shows a consumer product violates safety standards for that product, *before* an incident or injury has occurred. Often, however, they happen after a consumer has complained, after someone has been hurt, or after a doctor, hospital or coroner has filed a public report.

The product is recalled after the incident is linked to a safety issue. Sometimes that process takes months or years. And after a recall, we routinely see injuries, fires and even deaths months or years after the announcement.

When you consider these timing problems, and companies that don't test their products, and online sellers that refuse to cooperate with recalls, it's no wonder we're not always safe at home.



I INJURIES AND DEATHS

According to U.S. PIRG Education Fund's analysis, [92 products](#) caused injuries or deaths or both. A total of [869 injuries](#) and 15 deaths were connected to products recalled during the year. That's significantly higher than the [549 injuries](#) reported in 2023 and is [more than double](#) the number of injuries reported five years ago.

There were 16 products associated with 10 or more injuries and eight products linked to deaths.

The types of injuries ranged from cuts and burns that didn't require medical attention, to [partial finger amputations](#), to injuries from a [utility tractor brake failure](#) that led to hospitalization.

The products connected with 10 or more injuries:

- Two platform beds, [one in January](#) and [one in September](#).
- Two brands of garment steamers, [one in February](#) and [one in April](#).
- Laptop AC adapters [in February](#).
- Three types of mugs: metallic mugs [in March](#), glass mugs [in June](#), and travel mugs [in December](#).
- Lawnmowers and pressure washer engines [in May](#).
- Blending containers and blade bases [in June](#).
- Wireless charging power banks [in June](#).
- Steam cleaners [in July](#).
- Slide-in electric ranges [in August](#).
- Fire pits [in October](#).
- Wall beds, [in November](#).
- Oven gloves [in December](#).



Fisher-Price recalled more than 2 million Snuggly infant swings in October 2024. PHOTO: CPSC

The eight recalled products that were linked to deaths were:

- [Infant swings](#). Five infant deaths between 2012 and 2022 before the product was recalled in 2024.
- [Spa pumps](#). The spa pump is linked to a fatal fire in Kansas City, MO, which killed one person in January 2024.
- [Portable power stations](#). A 79-year-old man in Bradenton, Fla., died of smoke inhalation from a fire involving this product in 2022.
- [Bookcases](#). A bookcase tipped over and killed a 4-year-old child in August 2023.
- [Rechargeable integrated lights](#). A person died after the product is believed to have caused a fire in their home in 2023.
- Three models of adult bed rails from [Medline Industries](#) (two deaths,) [Medical King](#) (one death) and [Essential Medical Supply](#) (three deaths, two since a 2021 recall.)

Of the 86 products that caused injuries, 31, or more than one-third, [caused burns](#). [Two incidents](#) resulted in third-degree burns to more than 40% of victims' bodies. Those injuries stemmed from fires involving indoor/outdoor tabletop fire pits. The [company received](#) more than 30 reports of “flame jetting” and flames escaping from the concrete container. About 89,500 of the fire pits were recalled.

[At least six incidents](#) linked to other products, such as vacuum cleaners, power banks or coffee mugs that broke at the base have involved [surgery](#), prolonged medical treatment, admission to burn treatment facilities, short-term disability, loss of function, physical therapy or permanent disfigurement.

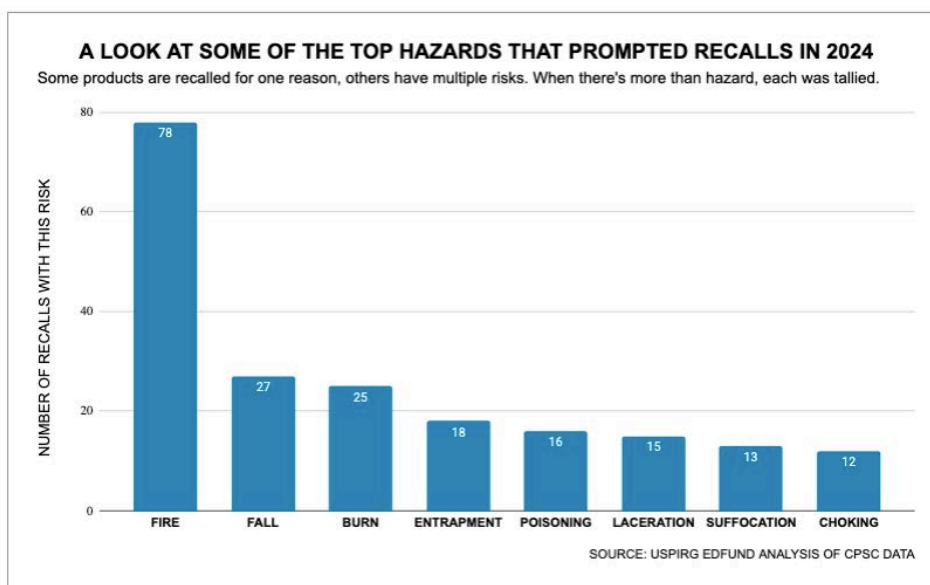
The pattern of deaths involving various types of adult portable bed rails caused the CPSC in November to issue [a strong warning](#) after it tallied 18 deaths in recent years involving bed rails.

The 2024 bed rail announcements were among nine recalls since 2021. In addition, the CPSC issued warnings about two other brands of adult bed rails, in [2021](#) and [2022](#), after the companies didn’t cooperate with a recall.

In the [2021 announcement](#) involving Bed Handles Inc., the CPSC said a previous version of the product was recalled in [2014](#) following three deaths and reannounced in [2015](#) after a fourth death. The deaths occurred after people who were elderly or disabled became entrapped in the bed rail. The [2022 announcement](#) involving Mobility Transfer Systems Adult Portable Bed Rails followed three deaths.

“In total, these recalls, along with two product warnings, impacted more than 3 million units and are associated with serious injuries from head, neck, or chest entrapment and 18 reported deaths,” the [CPSC said](#) in its November warning. Assisted living or senior facilities often use bed rails to help people stand up or gain their balance, or protect them from falling out of bed.

The CPSC in January 2023 issued new [mandatory safety standards](#) for adult portable bed rails in hopes of companies offering better protections than under the previous voluntary industry standard. All adult bed rails manufactured after Aug. 21, 2023, must comply. The CPSC encouraged anyone involved in care at an assisted living facility or private home to make sure that any adult bed rails haven’t been recalled, are installed properly and comply with [the safety standards](#).



I 568 FIRES CONNECTED TO UNSAFE PRODUCTS

Many products caused fires during 2024 or before. In fact, 41 recalled products are linked to a whopping [568 fires](#); 15 of those products contained lithium-ion batteries. In multiple cases, the fires caused serious property damage, with two documented instances of [\\$20,000](#) and [\\$165,000](#) in damage. A few noteworthy cases:

Samsung electric ranges: About 300 incidents of “accidental activation” and 250 fires; at least 18 fires caused extensive damage. In addition, about 40 injuries were reported and seven fires killed pets.

These ranges were unpredictable. One consumer reported the range turned on when he [walked by it](#), melting a plastic container but thankfully nothing else. Other consumers reported their range began smoking and [melted from the inside](#), as well as causing small fires. About 1.1 million ranges were recalled in August 2024.

Johnson Health Tech Commercial Treadmills: 59 incidents involving the product’s power cord and socket, including sparking, smoking and/or melting. Eight fires were reported, most recently in a fitness facility. No injuries were reported. They sold for \$3,400 to \$10,800. No injuries have been reported. About 30,000 were recalled in April 2024.

Bissell vacuum cleaners. 17 complaints of the vacuum cleaners smoking or putting out a burning smell, including six reports of the battery pack catching fire. There were three reports of minor property damage and two minor burn injuries. About 142,000 were recalled in February 2024.

Daiken Comfort Technologies evaporator coil drain pans: 31 fires, including significant fire

and smoke damage to homes. Most of these were [previously recalled](#) in 2022.

Three products involving lithium-ion batteries or chargers were linked to a significant number of last year’s fires:

Baseus Magnetic Wireless Charging Power Banks: Used to charge phones magnetically without a wired connection. 171 incidents, including 39 fires with \$20,000 in property damage, 13 burn injuries and 132 cases of “bulging or swelling batteries.”

In one case, a 47-year-old woman reported using the charger on her couch when [it exploded](#), emitting smoke and fire. It burned her leg, sofa and carpet. About 132,000 of the items were recalled in June 2024.

HTRC battery chargers were connected to 32 fires or other thermal incidents, including five reports of significant property damage. A couple in their 30s recounted an [incident](#) with the recalled charger that reportedly caused the battery to ignite and burn the garage wall, causing more than \$1,500 in damage. About 34,600 were recalled in December 2024.

Batteries for SKIL lawnmowers and outdoor tools were linked to 100 “thermal incidents” including fires, melting and smoking. There were 49 reports of property damage and eight reports of minor burns and/or smoke inhalation.

In one incident, a 35-year-old man reported his lawnmower battery spontaneously [self-combusted](#) and caused a fire in his garage, destroying a car valued at \$8,000 causing a total of \$13,000 in property damage. About 63,000 of the batteries were recalled in December 2024.

I WHAT HAPPENS WHEN PEOPLE DON'T FIND OUT ABOUT IMPORTANT RECALLS

Consumers have three primary ways to find out about recalled products:

1. From manufacturers or retailers, if the companies have customer contact information and are compelled to notify them. This is more possible when products are purchased online.
2. From news media, when they cover big recalls in TV or radio broadcasts or online or print news articles.
3. From the [CPSC's weekly updates](#), when it announces new recalls. Consumers need to actively check or sign up for weekly emails of all of the recalls.

Another reason that injuries, deaths and property damage occur weeks, months or years after a recall: When refunds are difficult for consumers to get, dangerous products may remain in people's homes, with the potential for more calamities.

Even when consumers learn about a recall on a product they own, companies frequently require them to jump through frustrating hoops to get refunds, repairs or replacements. In our 2024 [Too Much to Recall analysis](#) of recalls announced in 2023, we found that half of the companies that offered refunds had a reasonably easy request process. But half did not.

They required returns to be done in person, required shipping a product back for a \$2 or \$3 refund or required online registration to await further instructions by mail or email. [Our report](#) called for companies to be more transparent and reasonable with the process.

Here are a few cases where injuries, deaths or property damage occurred long after the initial recall:



Electrolux recalled a total of 203,000 ranges twice.

Frigidaire and Kenmore electric ranges by Electrolux

In August 2009, about 200,000 Frigidaire and Kenmore electric ranges [were recalled](#) because the top heating elements could turn on spontaneously, fail to turn off or heat to different temperatures. The company received 126 complaints, including four minor burn injuries and two cases of minor property damage.

During the 15 years between the original 2009 recall and May 2024, the company received [212 additional complaints](#) of the ranges “behaving erratically.”

The reports included 14 fires and eight burn injuries. These customers either didn't know about the original recall, didn't understand the hazard or didn't like the recall offer – a repair or \$50 refund.

The remedy offered was a free repair or, if the range wasn't repairable, a \$50 gift card and up to \$60 to haul the range away when they buy a new one and submit receipts. The ranges were sold from June 2001 through August 2009 for \$1,000 to \$2,500.

The company [reannounced the recall](#) in May 2024 because of the ongoing incidents, fires and injuries.

American Honda Motor lawnmower and pressure washer engine camshafts

In May and June 2022, [American Honda Motor Inc.](#) of California started distributing 391,800 lawnmowers and pressure washer engines. The lawnmowers cost \$550 to \$1,100; the pressure washer engines cost \$370 to \$550.

In just over a year, Honda had received [2,197 incident reports](#), including seven minor injuries, caused by "improperly manufactured" camshafts in the engines that "can cause the starter rope to suddenly retract when pulling to start, posing an injury hazard." The company announced a recall with free repairs in [September 2023](#).



Honda recalled about 400,000 lawnmowers and pressure washer engines.

From September 2023 through May 2024, Honda received 2,966 *more* complaints, including 38 reports of minor injuries. It reannounced the recall in May 2024 -- with free repairs -- and included 200 more potentially defective engines.

As with the Frigidaire and Kenmore electric ranges, people with the Honda lawnmowers or pressure washer engines who filed the nearly 3,000 complaints either didn't know about the original recall, didn't understand the hazard or didn't like the recall offer of a free inspection and repair.

Endurance Hand Bed Rails by Essential Medical Supply

In December 2021, Essential Medical Supply Inc. [recalled](#) about 272,000 portable bed rails under four different models after an 86-year-old man died involving one of the company's the Endurance Hand Bed Rail model in his home in December 2012. It's not known whether other near tragedies or incidents were reported.

The bed rails were sold nationwide at medical supply stores and online for \$36 to \$98 from October 2006 through October 2015. The company in 2021 offered refunds only on bed rails sold or imported after Oct. 31, 2015, with the amount of the refund prorated based on bed rail's age. The company didn't offer refunds on bed rails bought during the previous nine years; customers were instructed to just dispose of them.

By [April 2024](#), two additional deaths were reported, caused by entrapment, the company said. These occurred after the 2021 recall. An 86-year-old man died at an assisted living facility in Connecticut in December 2022 and a 99-year-old man died at his home in California in August 2023.

The company and the CPSC reannounced the recall in 2024 because of the ongoing risk of entrapment and asphyxiation. Both the company and regulator again stressed the danger, asking people to check assisted living facilities and homes that use portable bed rails to make sure they aren't any of the recalled models.

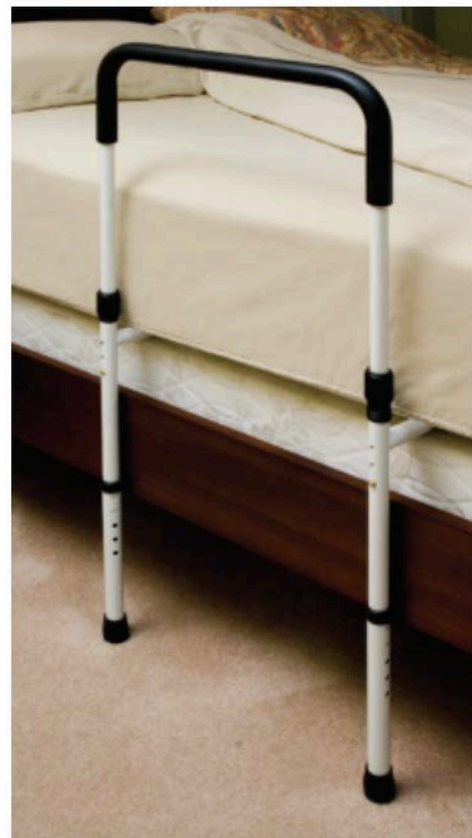
In the 2024 announcement, the company hadn't changed its policy of not offering refunds for bed rails purchased before November 2015.

The Endurance recall was one of three involving adult bed rails in 2024 and one of nine recalls in the last four years. That led the CPSC to issue an [urgent warning](#) in November.

A total of 3 million bed rails were covered by the nine recalls and two warnings about other products where the manufacturer wouldn't cooperate with a recall.

The 11 types of bed rails are connected to an undisclosed number of "serious injuries from head, neck, or chest entrapment and 18 reported deaths," the CPSC said.

The regulator urged anyone involved in the care of an elderly or disabled person to make sure that any bed rails are installed properly, used correctly and haven't been recalled. (See the full list in the Appendix.)



Essential Medical Supply recalled about 272,000 adult bed rails after they were linked to multiple deaths. The CPSC in 2024 issued a warning about adult bed rails after various brands were connected to 18 deaths and recalled or named in CPSC warnings if companies refused a recall.

I WHEN A RECALL DOESN'T FIX THE PROBLEM

Occasionally, companies recall products and offer a repair or new part. This can save the company money when compared with offering refunds for all of the products. If the companies continue to sell the product, they make design changes to resolve the issue.

However, sometimes those repairs or design changes don't work and the company must recall even more models found to be defective. Other times they start offering refunds instead of just repairs. Here are examples of both from 2024:

Vitamix Corp.

In July 2018, Vitamix Corp. of Cleveland [recalled about 105,000 blenders](#) because the containers could separate from the base, exposing the blades and putting users at risk of severe cuts. At least 11 people reported lacerations because of this problem. The blenders had been sold nationwide since April 2017 for \$24 to \$500. Vitamix offered free repair kits.

In June 2024, Vitamix [reannounced the recall](#), covering an additional 464,000 blenders, after 16 more people suffered lacerations when the blades were unexpectedly exposed. Vitamix offered free repair kits to all customers, *including* those who had received repair kits after the 2018 recall.

In [one case](#), in January 2023, a 42-year-old woman was using a Vitamix blender she and her husband purchased in November 2020 – *after the 2018 recall*. The jar came loose from the base while mixing, the complaint said. The woman tried to stop the blender from spraying the contents.

But “the jar dislodged from the base, resulting in severe lacerations to her middle and ring

fingers” and “significant blood loss.” She got stitches at urgent care and later had a procedure to “realign the tissues” damaged by the blood loss. It took a month for the woman to regain use of her hand for basic activities. A year later, her ring finger still didn't function properly and she still had intermittent pain, the complaint said. “It is noteworthy that the product details indicate that if a jar is not mounted or screwed properly, the blender is designed to detect this and should not initiate its functioning,” the complaint said.



Vitamix recalled about 569,000 blending containers and blade bases because they could separate pose a hazard.

Black + Decker garment steamers

In June 2021, Black + Decker started selling its “easy garment steamer” for \$16 to \$23 in stores such as Bed Bath & Beyond, Target and Walmart. Just more than a year later, in November 2022, the company had received 241 complaints about the small appliance shooting out hot water unexpectedly. A total of 32 burn injuries were reported, including two second-degree burns. The [company announced](#) it was recalling 518,500 garment steamers, saying customers could receive a free replacement part for the top of the steamer.

However, [by April 2024](#), the company said that since the recall 1-½ years earlier, it had received 317 additional complaints about hot water shooting out from the steamers. The complaints included 82 burn injuries; seven were second-degree burns.

Notably, 94 of these complaints involved steamers that were either repaired as part of the initial recall or were models with the updated design that supposedly eliminated the problem, [the company said](#). Among these complaints were 19 burn injuries.

The company then [recalled](#) 1.6 million steamers, including one new model and three older models. And instead of offering repairs, it offered full refunds.

Besides the 94 complaints involving repaired or redesigned steamers, this case involved 223 complaints from customers who either hadn't heard about the recall or ignored it.



Black+Decker recalled a half-million garment steamers in 2022, and then reannounced the recall in 2024 and expanded it to 1.6 million steamers.

I WHAT HAPPENS WHEN IT TAKES MONTHS OR YEARS TO RECALL A HAZARDOUS PRODUCT

Dangerous products are usually identified in one of three ways:

- The company identifies a defect through its own testing or monitoring after a product is offered for sale.
- Consumers complain to the company.
- CPSC staff investigate incidents reported by consumers, doctors, fire officials or others on [SaferProducts.gov](https://www.saferproducts.gov). CPSC staff also review death certificates and other records to spot possible problems, do secret shopping and conduct testing.

In numerous cases, people got injured or died years ago in cases linked to specific products, but the products weren't recalled until 2024. This happens in part because the CPSC can't force a recall without a legal fight – no matter how hazardous the product is.

The CPSC investigates reports of hazardous products when it's notified by doctors, fire officials, medical examiners, consumers or the company itself about injuries, deaths or fires. Part of that investigation may involve testing the products, which can be difficult if the product has been discarded or destroyed, such as in a fire.

With any complaint filed with the CPSC through [SaferProducts.gov](https://www.saferproducts.gov), the CPSC investigates to determine whether the product represents a hazard or demands "corrective action." There isn't a time limit on how long that investigation could take.

Once the regulator finishes its investigation into the product and the possible cause of a defect, it can contact the company about a recall.

Sometimes the company agrees quickly. Other times, companies may push back or propose repairs instead of refunds. With repairs, the CPSC must test the proposed fix to make sure it resolves the problem and doesn't create a new one. The back and forth can take months or years.

Examples from 2024:

Fisher-Price Snuga Swings

These [swings](#) were sold from October 2010 to January 2024. Between 2012 and 2022, five babies ages 1 month to 3 months died in connection with these products. Nearly 2.2 million of these products were [recalled](#) on October 10, 2024.

Samsung electric ranges

These [ranges](#), sold from May 2013 through August 2024, have been involved in accidental activation incidents since 2013. The ranges were associated with about 250 fires before 1.1 million were [recalled](#) on August 8, 2024. (This is a different product than the recalled Electrolux Frigidaire and Kenmore ranges.)

It's not publicly known why these recalls took so many years.

If the company prolongs the negotiations or doesn't cooperate at all, the CPSC can try to force a recall through litigation, but that can take years.

The Consumer Product Safety Act's Section 6(b) prohibits the CPSC from publicly disclosing derogatory information about a product unless it has notified the company and waited 15 days. That gives the company enough time to file a lawsuit to block the disclosure.

To avoid court battles, the CPSC often negotiates recalls with companies, which can take weeks, months or years.

However, the 15-day wait doesn't apply if the Commission "publishes a finding that the public health and safety require a lesser period of notice," per [15 U.S.C. 2055 \(6\)\(b\)\(5\)\(D\)](#).

The CPSC in rare instances has sued over products it believes are hazardous:

- In 2022, it [sued Leachco Inc.](#) of Oklahoma over four models of infant loungers that the CPSC said posed a suffocation hazard. The CPSC opened its investigation after two infants died, one in 2015 and one in 2018, in connection with the infant loungers. The case is still in court.
- In 2021, the CPSC [sued Thyssenkrupp Access Corp](#) over allegations that its residential elevators had dangerous gaps that children could fall through. The CPSC reported three incidents: A 2-year-old who died, a 3-year-old who suffered permanent disability and a 4-year-old hospitalized after being entrapped and crushed.
- In 2021, the CPSC [sued Amazon](#) in an effort to force the company to recall products the regulator said were hazardous: 24,000 carbon monoxide detectors that didn't put out alerts, children's sleepwear that violated flammability safety standards and nearly 400,000 hair dryers not equipped with immersion protection to help consumers avoid shock or electrocution.

After a multi-year legal battle, the CPSC [in 2024](#) determined that Amazon is a "distributor" of consumer products and required to comply with laws about unsafe products. Amazon maintains it's a "third-party logistics provider" and isn't required to comply with the [product safety laws](#) aimed at retailers, distributors, importers and retailers.

The CPSC in [January 2025](#) unanimously voted to hold Amazon responsible for notifying customers and motivating them to return or destroy the products by issuing a refund or other incentive. The CPSC's decision is on hold after Amazon [filed a motion](#) in January to stay the decision.

On [March 14](#), 2025, Amazon sued the CPSC.

The CPSC has to work within Section 6(b) of the Consumer Product Safety Act.

It prohibits the Commission from disclosing potentially damaging information about a specific product -- even after it's investigated and verified information -- until it has waited at least 15 days for the company to respond or go to court to block the disclosure.

| WARNINGS SKYROCKETED IN 2024 WHEN COMPANIES DIDN'T COOPERATE

The CPSC in 2024 dramatically increased the number of public warnings issued about products after the responsible company refused to cooperate with a voluntary recall. While the CPSC can't force a recall without a long legal process, it can issue a warning and name the company and product it believes is hazardous.

It issued 63 product warnings in 2024, up from 38 in 2023. Further, the total for 2024 is more than the previous nine years combined.

Back in 2018, 2019 and 2020, the CPSC issued zero, one and three warnings respectively.

Acting CPSC Chairman Peter Feldman said there's a quick explanation for the huge surge: "In a word, China," Feldman told U.S. PIRG Education Fund.

"The United States is facing a flood of Chinese consumer products that violate U.S. safety laws," he said. "When CPSC identifies illegal Chinese goods, the manufacturer is, more often than not, unreachable, unfindable, or uncooperative."

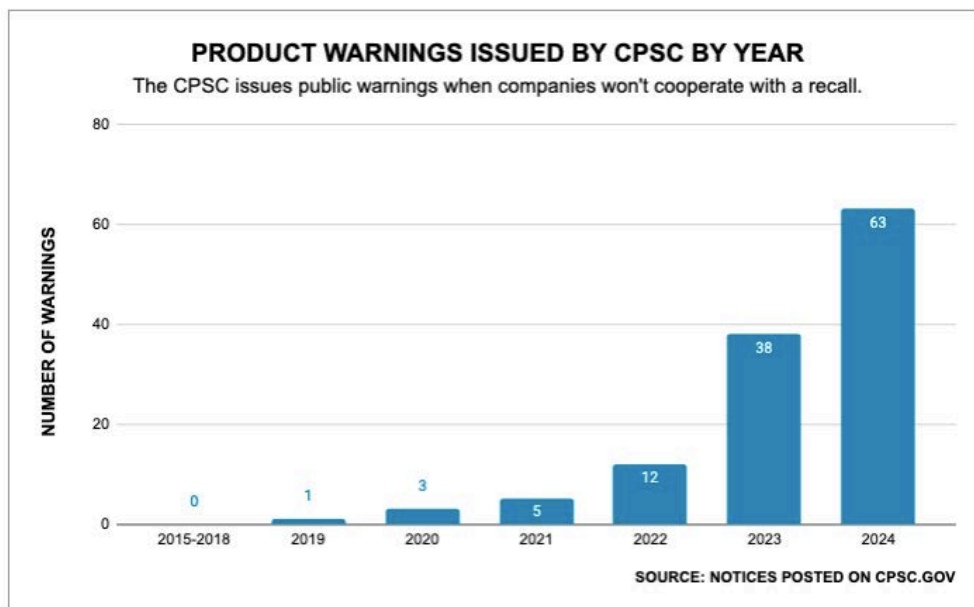
Of the 63 warnings in 2024, a company in China was the manufacturer, exporter or responsible party for [42 of the products](#).

CPSC Commissioner Alexander Hoehn-Saric, who joined the commission in 2021, said the regulator has focused on warnings the last few years when companies won't cooperate.

"What we wanted to avoid was a situation where the agency knew and the public didn't," Hoehn-Saric said in an interview. "These products are in their homes. They need this information to protect themselves."

Feldman, who began serving in 2018, has pushed for more warnings for years because they allow the CPSC to notify consumers more quickly and negotiate stronger recalls.

When companies don't cooperate with a recall, "sometimes warnings are the best we can do," said CPSC Commissioner Rich Trumka. But the warning isn't the end of the story. It can be "an important tool" to continue to pressure companies, he said.



For example, the CPSC in July 2024 issued [a warning](#) about HTRC C240 battery chargers manufactured by Shenzhen Haitan Technology Co. Ltd. of China. The company had been “unresponsive” to the CPSC’s requests for a recall or information about the product. The CPSC said the chargers could ignite or cause the battery to ignite. It received 32 complaints about fires or similar incidents, including five reports of heavy property damage and one injury. There were [148 reports](#) of fires or thermal incidents connected to other HTRC products.

Five months after the warning, the company [agreed to recall](#) 34,600 of the chargers and issue refunds. The chargers sold for \$65 to \$290. However, the CPSC commissioners’ efforts to use warnings to pressure companies to comply with a recall request doesn’t always work in the short term – or ever.

The [types of products](#) the CPSC issued warnings about in 2024 include bike helmets, high-powered magnets, water beads and various infant products marketed for sleep.

A few of the specific warnings in 2024:



Step stools: [Topfun Folding Step Stools](#) sold by FuTai Household Supplies, of China. Sold exclusively on Amazon. The CPSC tallied 39 complaints that the step stools collapsed or tipped over when someone was on it, leading to 13 injuries including a concussion, fractures and muscles, ligament or tendon injuries. FuTai didn’t respond to the CPSC’s recall push.



E-bike Batteries: [Unit Pack Power batteries](#) manufactured by Shenzhen Unit Pack Power Technology Co. of China. Company refused any recall the CPSC found acceptable. CPSC received 13 complaints of the batteries overheating, including seven fires with “substantial” property damage. The batteries were also connected to multiple fires in the United Kingdom, where four online platforms were [ordered to stop selling](#) the batteries.

The CPSC advises consumers to use only those micromobility products that have been designed and manufactured for compliance and that safety compliance has been certified by an accredited laboratory. E-bike owners should also avoid sleeping or leaving their homes while the batteries are charging, [the CPSC says](#). E-bike batteries also should not be charged with any charger besides one from the e-bike manufacturer.

Five infant loungers: [Mamibaby, Yoocaa, DHZJM, Cosy Nation & Hyhuudth Loungers](#). Five babies died in three of these products; the other two products have the same design and manufacturer. The loungers were advertised as sleep products but pose the risk of suffocation, entrapment or falls.

The CPSC confirmed that Ningbo Tree Nest Children Products Co. of China is the manufacturer of at least three of the products and believes it’s the manufacturer of the other two as well. Ningbo Tree Nest hasn’t agreed to a recall. The products were sold on platforms including Walmart.com and Amazon.



Five babies died in infant loungers designed like this one. The CPSC issued a warning about multiple products believed to have been designed by the same company.

While the manufacturer didn't agree to a recall, two of the third-party sellers did: Hangzhoumeixiajianzhushejiyouxiangongs of China [issued notices](#) but no refunds for two of the loungers that were sold on Amazon.com. And He Nan Ji Bu Gong Yi Pin You Xian Gong Si, of China [issued notices and offered refunds](#) for the Yoocca-branded loungers that were sold on Amazon. Amazon also agreed to contact customers.

Bike helmets: [Camzimo bike helmets](#) sold by Shanxixijuanguojimaoyiyouxiangongsi. The company does business as Amzomn. (Yes, Amzomn.) The helmets don't meet U.S. safety standards and could put riders at risk of a head injury. Consumers with the helmet were encouraged to cut the straps and throw it away.



The CPSC said these bike helmets didn't meet standards and wouldn't adequately protect riders.

Lithium battery chargers: [SafPow and AMPOWSURE battery chargers](#). The two companies refused a recall. Chargers are labeled as "universal" but aren't and may be incompatible with charging some of the products where compatibility is advertised. That can cause the battery to ignite. The CPSC received 47 complaints of fires or other "thermal incidents," including three burn and smoke inhalation injuries and three reports of property damage amounting to \$100,200. Were sold on Amazon and eBay.



The CPSC warned that these battery chargers could cause fires.

I THE PROBLEMS WITH E-COMMERCE

Two phenomena have collided in the last few years:

- Consumers overall are much more comfortable shopping online, a shift that escalated during the COVID pandemic in 2020.
- Overseas companies, especially two in China, have made a huge marketing push in the United States.

This poses a growing problem because imported products – especially inexpensive, direct-to-consumer purchases – often don’t face as much regulatory scrutiny. And while the need to monitor imports is increasing, the CPSC's budget is under mounting pressure. The agency already doesn't have enough staff for the nation's [328 ports of entry](#).

In addition, online retailers often don’t have to be as accountable as brick-and-mortar stores. This is particularly true for online marketplaces with third-party sellers. This means consumers have far less protection when shopping online.

Amazon holds about 38% of the online shopping market, according to [Statista](#). But the mammoth retailer faces new competition from [Temu](#), based in China, and [Shein](#), founded in China and now is headquartered in Singapore. Temu climbed to the [No. 1 most downloaded shopping app](#) in the United States in 2023 with about 123 million downloads, outpacing Amazon fivefold, according to Statista, a widely used, independent global data research firm. Temu is followed by Shein.

Despite fewer consumer protections with online shopping, it’s estimated that more than 40% of clothing is purchased online today, along with 17% of consumer electronics and 14% of toys and children’s products. Overall, e-commerce is expected to skyrocket, from \$1.2 trillion in 2024

"Whether or not Temu has seen the writing on the wall, the Commission intends to remain quite active in this space."

--CPSC Acting Chairman Peter Feldman

expected to skyrocket, from \$1.2 trillion in 2024 to \$1.8 trillion in 2029, according to [Statista](#).

In 2022, e-commerce sales stood at \$1 trillion, [according to the CPSC](#).

“It remains a difficult area for the agency,” CPSC Commissioner Alexander Hoehn-Saric told U.S. PIRG Education Fund. Regarding e-commerce companies, he said: “I don’t believe they’re doing enough to police themselves.”

He added that he believes regulators and lawmakers should continue to monitor e-commerce retailers to protect consumers. “I’m not convinced it will all just happen voluntarily.”

Temu in particular hasn’t earned a reputation of cooperating with the CPSC. In 2023, for example, the CPSC made four recall requests involving dangerous high-powered magnets sold exclusively on Temu. Neither Temu nor the manufacturers cooperated with any of them, so the CPSC issued warnings to the public and named the companies. No recalls in 2023 involved products sold on Temu.

In 2024, however, eight recalls involved products sold exclusively on Temu because the companies all cooperated. There were no warnings in 2024 for products sold on Temu, meaning no cases where companies weren't cooperative.

CPSC Acting Chairman Peter Feldman has long focused on potential threats from e-commerce purchases.

Asked whether Temu is being more cooperative these days. Feldman noted that the CPSC's [current operating plan](#) includes his amendment to "designate foreign e-commerce platforms like Shien and Temu as top enforcement priorities."

"Whether or not Temu has seen the writing on the wall," Feldman said, "the Commission intends to remain quite active in this space."

What does all of this mean? Lawmakers, regulators, consumer advocates and U.S.-based manufacturers are increasingly worried about international e-commerce purchases because there's less transparency, accountability and recourse. In some cases, a purchase may seem like it's being shipped from within the United States. You figure out that's not true when the notification says shipping is international and will take two to three weeks.

Regulators believe many products produced overseas don't comply with U.S. safety standards. For example, toys sold in the United States must adhere to more than 100 tests and safety standards.

Consider these cases in point: In our 2024 [Trouble in Toyland report](#), we highlighted numerous examples of children's toys available on Temu or Shein for \$1 or \$2, *including free shipping* from halfway across the world. Those same products typically sell for \$15 or \$25 from a U.S. manufacturer. Why the huge difference?

Besides increased labor and material costs, the U.S. manufacturers likely put their products through federally required testing by a certified, independent lab. Experts say there's no way companies could sell products like these at such low prices and still make any profit, even a few pennies, if they paid for independent testing.

"If de minimis closed, Americans would be safer."

-- CPSC Commissioner Rich Trumka

It's clear many of these products weren't properly tested because they violate a measurable federal standard.

It would seem much easier for manufacturers to avoid violating known federal standards, such as for toxics, child-proof containers or infant sleep products, than to foresee every possible defect that could cause an electrical product to overheat or cause a piece of furniture to break.

It's not surprising to us that inadequate testing is a bigger problem with products sold only online.

Among all recalled products in 2024 – those sold only in traditional stores or in stores and online – [30%](#) violated a testable federal safety standard, such as levels of lead in paint or flame-resistance in mattresses. However, among recalled products sold *only* online, [64%](#) violated a known federal safety standard.

Efforts to eliminate the so-called de minimis exemption could help keep some unsafe imports out. De minimis rules often allow lower-priced goods to avoid the same level of scrutiny. [Since 2016](#), de minimis laws allowed shipments valued at \$800 or less to evade the same rules that apply to shipments valued at more than \$800. Those laws include allowing the low-value shipments to avoid paying taxes or tariffs.

"If de minimis closed, Americans would be safer," CPSC Commissioner Rich Trumka said in an interview. There are questions about whether it would apply to international mail,

which is the way most direct-to-consumer purchases are delivered, such as those from Temu and Shein, he added. But he stressed that something needs to be done.

“Dangerous products are coming into our country. We deserve visibility into what’s coming in here,” Trumka said.

On Jan. 17, 2025, U.S. Customs and Border Protection [proposed](#) changing what shipments qualify for the exceptions. This followed a September [White House announcement](#) aimed at tightening import rules to stop countries from claiming a de minimis exception on a huge chunk of their shipments to the United States.

This is a bipartisan issue, with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle supporting ways to improve product safety, protect U.S. businesses from unfair competition, stop overseas companies from evading U.S. taxes and plug a loophole often used to ship illegal drugs such as fentanyl into the United States.

Changes in these laws and more resources at the border should improve product safety.

Trumka said the CPSC needs more staff at the ports, where it works alongside Customs and Border Protection. “More people. It’s that simple,” he said. “If we have more people, we can do more to stop dangerous products from getting into the country.”

The CPSC is woefully understaffed. Looking only at the ports of entry, the CPSC has 57 full-time staff (FTEs) for the nation's 328 ports of entry. The agency overall has about 534 employees.

"I don't believe (e-commerce sites) are doing enough to police themselves."

*-- CPSC Commissioner
Alexander Hoehn-Saric*

The CPSC has proposed hiring additional staff to handle soaring volumes of international shipments from overseas manufacturers.

With just low-value shipments into the United States, which claim to fall under the de minimis exception and often don’t get as much scrutiny, the volume increased from 503 million shipments in FY 2019 to nearly 1.4 billion shipments in FY 2024, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Besides evading as much scrutiny, these shipments also claim to be exempt from duties and taxes.

Crackdowns on de minimis shipments may help some, but U.S. consumers’ hunger for inexpensive products is likely to continue, often without regard to quality.

That’s why PIRG Education Fund is working to educate consumers about how to evaluate online retailers and make choices that protect their safety and their wallet.

“I think it’s important to keep a light on these issues,” Hoehn-Saric said. Shoppers should consider what will happen if there’s a problem with a product. “They should make sure they’re buying on a platform that will step up.”

U.S. Customs and Border Protection says the number of shipments into the United States that claim they're low-value and exempt from duties and taxes increased from 503 million shipments in FY 2019 to nearly 1.4 billion in FY 2024.

I CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS, TOYS AND INFANT SLEEP

About 30% of products recalled in 2024 ([92](#) of the 305) were for children. They ranged from toys to infant sleep products to pajamas. A [“children’s product”](#) is any product “designed or intended primarily for children 12 years of age or younger.

Among those 92:

- 22 were toys.
- 18 were sleepwear or other children’s clothing.
- 17 were related to infant sleep, including crib mattresses that are too soft, [crib bumpers](#) that could suffocate an infant and baby swings that violate the [Safe Sleep for Babies Act](#).

In the last two decades, we had the highest number of product recalls in 2007, fueled by more than 100 children’s products with excessive levels of lead in paint used on the products. In 2007, there were limits on lead in children’s products, but only if the lead was in paint or surface coatings.

That left children unprotected from other potential lead exposures, even though lead is a known neurotoxin that can cause brain damage, learning disabilities and behavioral problems. The maximum level for paint and surface coatings of toys and other children’s products was [600 ppm](#), a standard set back in the 1970s.

Among the products recalled for lead in 2007:

- About 1.7 million Thomas & Friends wooden train and railway toys because the surface paint contained excessive lead levels. The original [recall](#) was expanded in [a few months later](#) to include more toys.

- Nearly [1 million toys](#) with characters from Sesame Street, Dora the Explorer and other popular children’s TV shows. The toys’ surface paint contained lead levels above the allowed limit.
- Millions of other [products](#) ranging from school supplies to jewelry to stuffed animals.

Because of that, Congress in 2008 passed the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act that, among other things, implemented [safety standards for lead and other toxics](#) in products that children play with, wear or interact with.

Levels of lead can be easily tested. Despite that, six children’s products were discovered with excessive levels of lead in 2024, and two contained excessive levels of phthalates, another toxin. Of the six, three contained only lead; three contained lead and cadmium or phthalates.

The products with toxins included [children’s jewelry](#), [foam art supplies for painting](#), [children’s garden sets](#) and [a croquet set](#).

Lead is particularly concerning because you [can’t see it or smell it](#), but it could [be harming children](#) without detection until [years later](#).

I DISASTERS AVERTED

All of the recalled products posed a hazard such as fire, injury or death. Some of the recalls, however, involved unsafe products that easily could have had grave consequences, but didn't, at least at the time of the recall notice.

They include:

Biometric gun safes that could be opened without the paired fingerprint.

Biometric gun safes are designed to allow the safe to be opened only by someone whose fingerprints are paired with it. With six of these brands of safes recalled in 2024, they could be opened by others, and were opened in at least 168 cases that were reported to the companies, according to the CPSC.

In [one of those cases](#), a 6-year-old boy opened the safe without authorization. Fortunately, no injuries were reported in these cases. About 260,000 safes were recalled.



This safe from Bulldog Biometric Firearm Safes was one of six brands recalled in 2024.

However, a 5-year-old boy from Michigan was injured by a self-inflicted gunshot after he was able to get a gun from a Stack-On brand safe that was thought to be secure, according to [a CPSC announcement](#) in January 2025. The CPSC issued an urgent warning for consumers to stop using Stack-On brand biometric gun

safes, pistol vaults and lock boxes distributed by Alpha Guardian and Stack-On. There were two other incidents with children accessing Stack-On gun safes with unpaired fingerprints besides the one involving the injured 5-year-old.

Stack-On refused to agree to an “acceptable” recall, the CPSC said.

The six recalls:

[Biometric Gun Safes Recalled Due to Serious Injury Hazard and Risk of Death; Imported by Awesafe](#)

[Biometric Gun Safes Recalled Due to Serious Injury Hazard and Risk of Death; Sold Exclusively on Amazon.com by BBRKIN](#)

[Machir Recalls Biometric Personal Safes Due to Serious Injury Hazard and Risk of Death](#)

[Bulldog Cases Recalls Biometric Gun Safes Due to Serious Injury Hazard and Risk of Death](#)

[SA Consumer Products Recalls Sanctuary Quick Access and Sports Afield Biometric Gun Safes Due to Serious Injury Hazard and Risk of Death](#)

[Academy Sports + Outdoors Recalls Redfield 12- and 18-Gun Fireproof Safes Due to Serious Injury Hazard and Risk of Death](#)

Smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors that didn't work.

About 62,000 smoke or carbon monoxide detectors by three different companies were recalled because they didn't alert people to unsafe levels of smoke or carbon monoxide as they were supposed to. Seven cases of the detectors not working were reported, according to the CPSC. There were no injuries.



The three recalls for smoke alarms/carbon monoxide detectors:

[Honeywell Recalls System Sensor L-Series Low Frequency Fire Alarm Sounders and Strobes Due to Risk of Failure to Alert Consumers to a Fire](#)

[CHZHVAN Combination Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors Recalled Due to Failure to Alert to Fire; Sold Exclusively on Amazon.com by Haikouhuidishangmaoyouxiangongsi](#)

[New Cosmos USA Recalls Combination Natural Gas and Carbon Monoxide Alarms Due to Failure to Alert Consumers to the Presence of Natural Gas and to the Risk of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning](#)

Gas boilers that can emit unsafe levels of carbon monoxide.

About 3,600 gas boilers were recalled because they could emit hazardous levels of carbon monoxide. No incidents or injuries were reported.

The two recalls:

[U.S. Boiler Company Recalls Gas-Fired Hot Water Residential Boilers Due to Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Hazard](#)

[Crown Boiler Recalls Home Heating Boilers Due to Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Hazard](#)

Millions of tip-over kits designed to prevent dressers/other furniture from tipping over.

Two cases of the kits breaking were reported. The kits were sold by New Age Furniture / Alliance4Safety under more than 30 brands. No injuries were reported.

[Alliance4Safety and 33 Furniture Companies Recall Millions of Plastic New Age Furniture Tip-over Restraint Kits Due to Tip-over and Entrapment Hazards to Children](#)



Candy with roller balls that popped out and could choke a child.

On [March 21, 2024](#), a recall was announced for 290,000 Happiness USA Liquid Rolling Candy products after a 7-year-old boy got choked when the ball dislodged. He had to have emergency surgery to remove the ball, the CPSC said. This case could have ended differently.

In October 2023, a 7-year-old girl in New York died in connection with [Cocco Candy Rolling Candy](#) after the ball came loose and became trapped in her throat. Earlier in the year, 70 million [Slime Licker](#) roller ball candy products were recalled after two reports of the roller balls detaching from the hand-held container.

On March 21, 2024 – the same day as the Happiness USA recall, the CPSC issued [an urgent warning](#) for consumers to avoid buying or using these roller ball types of candy.

I TIPS FOR CONSUMERS TO STAY SAFE

There are two big issues with product safety: First, when products are recalled, the system for notifying consumers who may have purchased the item isn't good. And second, while companies test many products they sell to consumers, and while regulators try to make sure products are safe, the vast majority of consumer products don't have mandatory safety standards and many manufacturers don't follow standards anyway.

Here are some ways to find out about recalls, get resolution for recalls and maybe even avoid buying an inferior product to begin with:

Before you buy an item that's expensive, is for a child or runs off electricity or a rechargeable battery, check for recalls on [cpsc.gov/recalls](https://www.cpsc.gov/recalls) and for complaints on [saferproducts.gov](https://www.saferproducts.gov)

Consider purchases only from known, trusted sellers or the trademark holder. Companies you've never heard of warrant more research.

Understand that online purchases are nearly always more risky because there's not as much transparency and returns can be more difficult or impossible.

When shopping online, read reviews about the seller and look for an address and a working U.S. phone number in case you need to contact the seller. Also, does the website or listing have multiple typos or grammatical errors? That could be a flag.

Use extra caution when buying from online marketplaces, resale websites or shops or garage sales. It's illegal to sell recalled products, but it happens. Check [cpsc.gov/recalls](https://www.cpsc.gov/recalls) before you buy.

Use even more caution when buying products being shipped from overseas or from websites that seem unprofessional. International sellers may not comply with U.S. safety standards, and unethical sellers may peddle all sorts of recalled or unsafe merchandise.

Figure out the shipping time. You may think you're buying from within the United States. But if delivery takes weeks, it could be coming from overseas, potentially bypassing inspection at the border and documentation of safety testing.

Read reviews about the product itself. Look at the negative reviews first. Does it break easily? Is it poor quality?

Look at the brand's website to find authorized retailers. If a seller isn't on the list, the product may be a counterfeit.

Fill out online or mail-in registrations that come with products. At least provide a secondary email if you're concerned they'll share your information. Then companies can contact you if there's a recall.

Keep receipts or other proof of purchase for large-ticket items.

With your appliances, electronics, toys or other items used by children, and with any other category of products where recalls are common, search periodically for recalls involving your possessions on [cpsc.gov/recalls](https://www.cpsc.gov/recalls) and search for complaints on [saferproducts.gov](https://www.saferproducts.gov). New recalls get posted on [cpsc.gov/recalls](https://www.cpsc.gov/recalls) generally every Thursday morning.

If you experience an issue with a product and want to warn other consumers and report it to regulators, you can file a report at [saferproducts.gov](https://www.saferproducts.gov)

If a product you own is recalled and you have difficulty getting your refund or other resolution, [file a complaint](#) with the CPSC.

See our other helpful guides to stay safe:

[Tips to shop smarter and safer and avoid hazardous products](#)

[Counterfeit products: How to tell whether you bought one](#)

[How to recognize fake online reviews of products and services](#)

[How to find out about food recalls](#)

I CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

We know that parents, caregivers, families and shoppers of all types generally assume that because something is for sale at a store or a known website, it must be safe, right? Of course that's often tragically wrong.

That's likely what shoppers thought before they bought any of the 305 products that were recalled last year, many associated with injuries, deaths or property damage. The announcements were connected to 869 injuries and 15 deaths. That's not counting the injuries and at least 10 additional deaths linked to products that companies *didn't* recall, despite the CPSC's requests.

There are thousands and thousands of types of products. There used to be about 15,000 types of consumer products under the CPSC.

But that figure predated new inventions, such as sleep pods for offices or stylus pens for an iPad. And it pre-dated new regulations, such as the 2022 Reese's Law, which governs an array of products with button-cell batteries, such as remotes or calculators.

Still, a wide range of "general use" products are required to comply with various safety standards, whether it's a hair dryer, a mattress, a smoke detector or a toy. [Children's products](#), meaning toys, clothing or any other product for children 12 and under, must comply with a host of much stricter rules for issues such as small parts, lead and phthalates content and more.

Many of the rest don't even have requirements or industry-consensus standards. Plus, even with ones that have standards, the rules are often ignored when companies lie about testing. An incredibly large number of defective products don't get flagged until there's a problem, until someone gets hurt or dies or until there's a fire or some other incident. Last year's

recall announcements involved more than 83 million items that had already been purchased and likely were still in people's homes at the time of the recall.

Then, we have to remember the recalls announced every year are just the problem products the CPSC knows about and that companies have *agreed* to voluntarily recall. The CPSC doesn't have the authority to recall a dangerous product without a huge legal fight that can take years. It can put out a warning, but those aren't terribly effective for a few reasons, but mainly because it doesn't require the company to notify customers.

The potential dangers also include:

- Imported products that violate U.S. standards, including some are already for sale. The CPSC can issue notices of violation, but can't reach the manufacturer to work toward a recall.
- Products that aren't inspected because the CPSC and Customs and Border Protection can't inspect everything.
- Counterfeit products.

Consumers' safety could improve if Congress would:

Bolster the resources of the CPSC and Customs and Border Protection to provide more staffing at the border to stop dangerous imports from entering the country, especially toys and other children's products. The bipartisan [Securing America's Ports of Entry Act](#) would provide more CBP staffing, although not necessarily focused on counterfeits and other dangerous consumer products.

Pass legislation to restrict the sale of water beads marketed for children. The [Ban Water Beads Act](#) (the House version) and [Esther's Law](#) (the Senate version) were introduced following the July 2023 death of a 10-month-old baby in Wisconsin who had swallowed a water bead, and the serious injury in 2022 of a 9-month-old baby in Maine who had swallowed water beads and required surgery for an intestinal obstruction.

About 7,800 children were treated in emergency rooms from 2016 through 2022 for injuries or illnesses caused by water beads, according to [the CPSC](#). Further, about 6,000 injuries treated in emergency rooms in 2023 involved water beads, according to the CPSC's [Toy-Related Deaths and Injuries](#) report released in 2024.

Support the Sunshine in Product Safety Act, or similar legislation, which would allow the CPSC to warn consumers more quickly about all kinds of dangerous products, including toys, in advance of a recall. It was first introduced in [2021](#) and was reintroduced in [2023](#) in the House and Senate. Unilateral warnings from the CPSC are good, but not nearly as good as a recall.

Empower the CPSC with mandatory recall authority in cases where the CPSC believes a product represents a grave threat, based on reports from hospitals, fire departments, coroner and complaints from consumers. The CPSC should also be authorized to recall a dangerous product when a company isn't being responsive, especially an international company.

Pass the [CAP Act](#), which would increase the civil penalties companies could face if they violate product safety laws and endanger people, especially children.

Empower the CPSC to continue to research the risks of phthalates and other toxics. Laws were passed on lead and some phthalates in children's products. There are other toxic chemicals we

Give the CPSC more resources. The CPSC is supposed to protect the public from dangers that may exist with thousands of different kinds of consumer products.

The CPSC has the authority to set mandatory safety standards; influence voluntary safety standards; require labeling; force hazardous products to be removed from store shelves; order product recalls; educate the public about product safety; and collect and analyze data about injuries, death and incidents.

The CPSC reviews about 8,000 unintentional product-related death certificates each year, and tracks at least 15.5 million injuries each year that are treated in emergency rooms and associated with consumer products.

In particular, the CPSC needs more staff at the ports to stop dangerous products. There are [328](#) ports of entry. The CPSC's import surveillance office has 57 full-time employees.

Work to fix the broken product recall system, by requiring companies to do more to notify customers about recalls and by requiring companies with recalled products to have a consumer-friendly process to get a refund, repair or replacement.

We know this is possible because so many companies large and small do this already. Half of the companies that offered refunds in 2023 had a reasonably easy remedy request process, according to research and an analysis we published in 2024 in our [Too Much To Recall](#) report.

When recalls are difficult to get, dangerous products remain in people's homes, with the potential for even more calamities.

Consider strengthening the bi-partisan [INFORM Consumers Act](#), which went into effect June 27, 2023. The law requires online marketplaces to verify "high-volume" third-party sellers by authenticating the seller's government ID, tax ID, bank account

information, and contact information. And it makes it much more difficult for a bad guy to use burner accounts, unless he or she had multiple government-issued IDs. “A high-volume seller is defined as any seller that, in a continuous 12-month period, has entered into and completed 200 or more discrete sales or transactions and, as a result, has accumulated an aggregate total of \$5,000 or more in gross revenue.”

But the law won’t stop smaller sellers, who might sell fewer than 200 items in a year. And it doesn’t do anything to deal with counterfeits at brick-and-mortar stores.

Consumers’ safety could also improve if:

Congress or courts would act to clarify that the 1996 Communications Decency Act doesn’t insulate online platforms from responsibility for products sold illegally on their websites. This would give the CPSC more authority to pursue enforcement against platforms such as Facebook Marketplace and eBay, just like the regulator does with big box retailers.

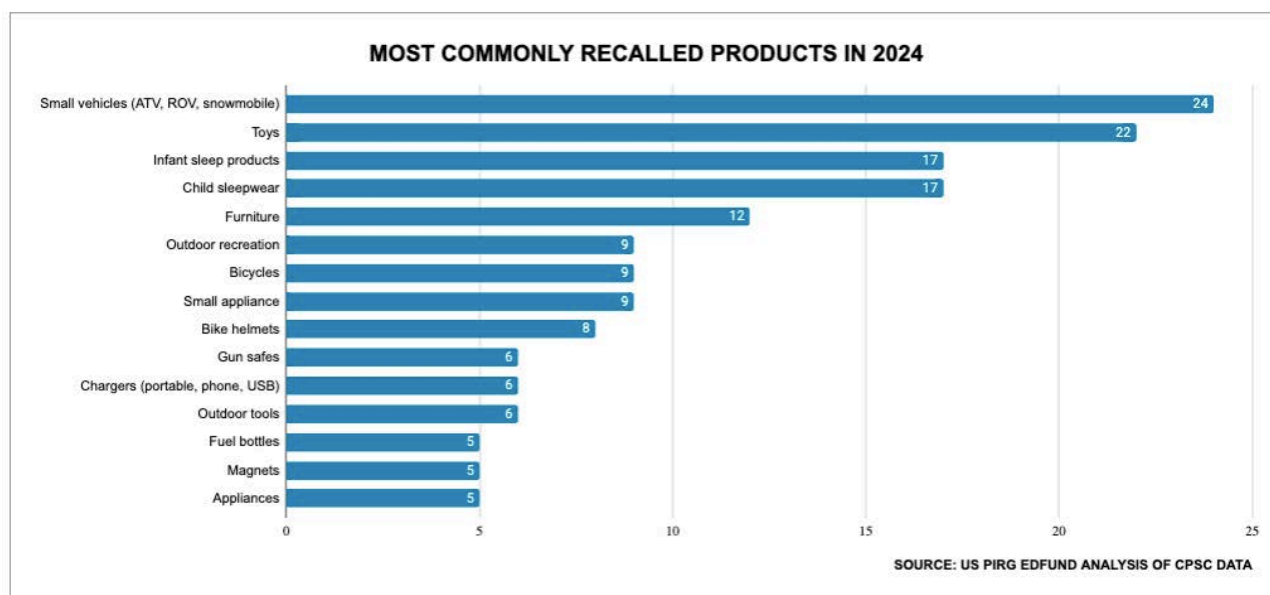
Currently, the CPSC can’t require an online marketplace to remove a product from its platform or notify the CPSC of hazards or injuries unless the marketplace is a manufacturer, distributor, importer or retailer.

In addition, the CPSC should:

Push companies harder to do more to alert customers to recalls. Besides notifying customers who’ve provided contact information, companies could amplify the recall through social media and targeted advertising. The CPSC should also push companies to make it easier for customers to request a refund, repair or replacement. The onerous process that exists now deters consumers from getting dangerous products out of their homes.

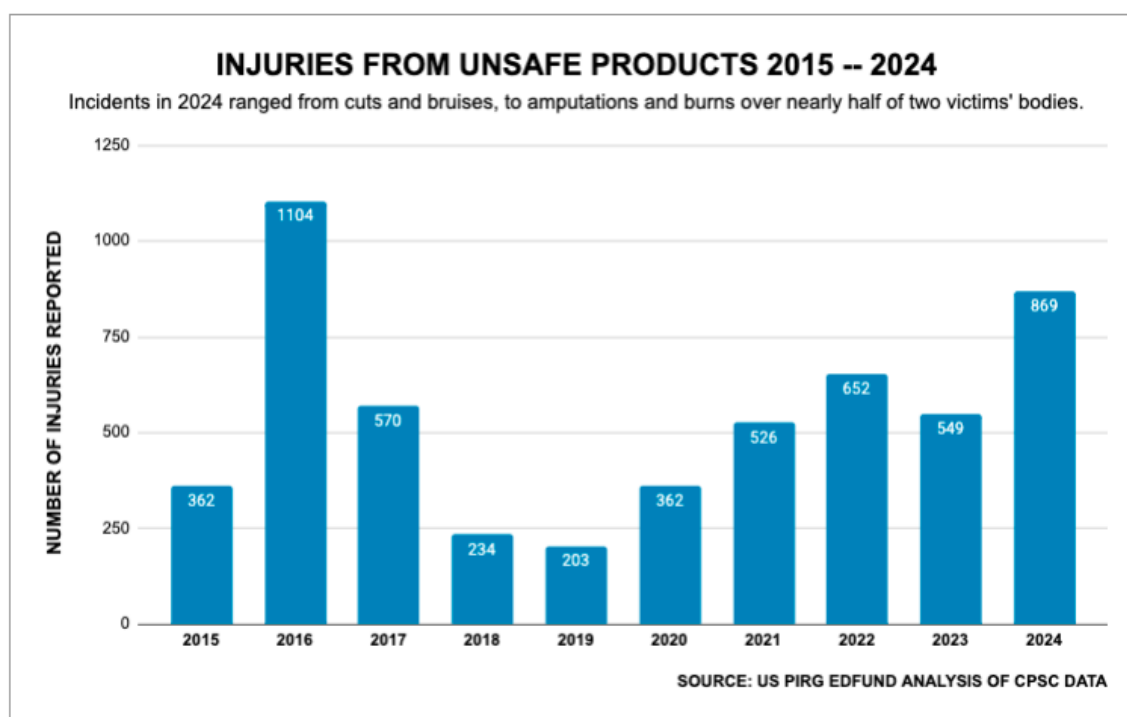
Improve the CPSC’s [saferproducts.gov](https://www.saferproducts.gov) website. For consumers searching for past complaints or incidents about a particular product, it’s often not easy to find reports. For example, if you search for reports about an XYZ brand refrigerator and you type in “XYZ refrigerator,” it will show you every report mentioning either: any product made by XYZ, or any brand of refrigerator.

It can be cumbersome to wade through dozens of complaint summaries of reports that aren’t what you’re looking for. Using the site’s “advanced search” function does help a bit. But the search results are erratic. And if you want to amend a search where you entered numerous search parameters, the process just isn’t very user-friendly.



I APPENDIX – The spike in 2016

The total of 869 injuries associated with recall announcements issued in 2024 was an eight-year high – the largest number since 2016. And 2016 was multiples higher than most other years in the last decade.



That raised the question: What happened in 2016? The short answer: There weren't hundreds of injuries associated with one specific product. There were, however, three cases with more than 100 injuries each. These three totaled nearly 600 injuries. Fortunately, most of those appeared to be fairly minor with two of the recalls.

The recalls were:

[Pacific Cycle Recalls Swivel Wheel Jogging Strollers Due to Crash and Fall Hazards](#)

Among products with only injuries, this seemed to have the most serious injuries and the second-highest total in 2016: 215 injuries.

The product was a jogging stroller with one front wheel that could come loose. The company, Pacific Cycle, received 132 complaints "of the front wheel becoming loose or unstable." Those incidents reportedly led to 215 injuries, including head injuries, sprains, lacerations, bumps, bruises and abrasions.

The other two recalled products in 2016 with more than 100 injuries each:

[Cheryl & Co. Recalls Jingle Bell Ornaments | CPSC.gov](#)

140 injuries

“QVC has received 140 reports of consumers who received finger cuts while handling the ornaments, including four consumers who required stitches.”

[Oven Mitts Recalled by Loot Crate Due to Burn Hazard | CPSC.gov](#)

241 injuries

“The firm has received 241 reports of burn injuries, including reports of the glove melting and burning consumers' skin.”

Another big recall from 2016:

It's noteworthy that one of the saddest recall announcements in 2016 didn't involve a large number of injuries, and maybe no injuries in 2016. A June 2016 [recall of Ikea dressers](#) did disclose the February 2016 death of a 22-month-old boy from Minnesota after a six-drawer Ikea chest tipped over onto him.

This was a [reannouncement](#) of the danger and Ikea's [2015 offer](#) of free wall anchoring kit for 27 million chests and dressers vulnerable to tip over. The 2016 announcement said Ikea and the CPSC received reports that a 2-year-old boy in West Chester, Pa. died in February 2014 after a 48-inch high chest tipped over on him, and a 23-month-old boy from Snohomish, Wash., died in June 2014 after a 30-inch high chest tipped over on him.

As of 2016, a total of seven deaths and 17 injuries were associated with tipovers of Ikea dressers and chests. It's not clear when the injuries occurred. About 35.6 million dressers and chests were recalled in 2016.

The alert about Ikea dressers was [reannounced again](#) in 2017 after a 2-year-old boy from Buena Park, Calif., died in June 2017 after a three-drawer chest tipped over on him. By that point, after a 2011 death was connected to tip overs, eight deaths and 144 injuries had been reported. Five of those deaths occurred in last six years. The newly identified case involved a 2-year-old boy from Woodbridge, Va., who died in September 2011 after a three-drawer chest tipped over on him. The previous deaths occurred in 1989, 2002 and 2007.

I APPENDIX – Adult bed rails

The Consumer Product Safety Commission in November issued an [urgent warning](#) about adult bed rails after 18 deaths in recent years. People who are elderly or disabled often rely on the bed rails to stand up or to keep them from falling out of bed, but they can become entrapped in the bed rail and be unable to breathe. The CPSC in January 2023 issued new [mandatory safety standards](#) for products manufactured after August 21, 2023. By late 2024, the CPSC had announced recalls or warnings regarding 11 brands of bed rails.

Here's the list:

Medical King – November 2024 – 220,000 products

[Medical King](#) Recalls About 222,000 Adult Portable Bed Rails Due to Serious Entrapment and Asphyxia Hazards; One Death Reported

Ceithier – September 2024 – 1,170 products

[Ceithier Adult Portable Bed Rails](#) Recalled Due to Serious Entrapment and Asphyxia Hazards

Medline – May 2024 – 1.5 million products

[Medline Industries](#) Recalls 1.5 Million Adult Portable Bed Rails Due to Serious Entrapment and Asphyxia Hazards; Two Deaths Reported

Essential Medical Supply – April 2024 – 272,000 products (*recall reannouncement*)

[Essential Medical Supply](#) Reannounces Recall of Adult Portable Bed Rails Due to Entrapment and Asphyxia Hazards; Two Additional Deaths Reported After 2021 Recall

BeyondMedShop – March 2023 – 102,000 products

[BeyondMedShop](#) Recalls Vaunn Medical Adult Bed Rails Due to Serious Entrapment and Asphyxia Hazards

Platinum Health – February 2023 – 53,000 products

[Platinum Health](#) Recalls LumaRail Adult Portable Bed Rails Due to Serious Entrapment and Asphyxia Hazard; One Death Reported

Mobility Transfer Systems (MTS) – June 2022 – 285,000 products (*safety warning*)

[CPSC Urges Consumers](#) to Immediately Stop Use of Mobility Transfer Systems Adult Portable Bed Rails Due to Entrapment and Asphyxia Hazard; Three Deaths Reported

Nova Medical Products – December 2022 – 20,000 products

[Nova Medical Products](#) Recalls Adult Bed Rails Due to Serious Entrapment and Asphyxia Hazards

Compass Health – December 2021 – 104,900 products

[Compass Health Brands](#) Recalls Carex Adult Portable Bed Rails After Three Deaths; Entrapment and Asphyxiation Hazards

Essential Medical Supply – December 2021 – 272,000 products

[Essential Medical Supply](#) Recalls Adult Portable Bed Rails Due to Entrapment and Asphyxia Hazard; One Death Reported

Drive DeVilbiss – December 2021 – 496,000 products

[Drive DeVilbiss Healthcare](#) Recalls Adult Portable Bed Rails After Two Deaths; Entrapment and Asphyxiation Hazards

Bed Handles, Inc – April 2021 – 113,000 products (*safety warning*)

[CPSC Warns Consumers](#) to Stop Use of Three Models of Adult Portable Bed Rails Manufactured by Bed Handles, Inc., Due to Entrapment, Asphyxia Hazard

I METHODOLOGY

We used the following primary sources at the Consumer Product Safety Commission: the recalls database at [cpsc.gov/recalls](https://www.cpsc.gov/recalls), as well as [saferproducts.gov](https://www.saferproducts.gov) and [cpsc.gov/Newsroom/News-Releases](https://www.cpsc.gov/Newsroom/News-Releases)

The first one, [cpsc.gov/recalls](https://www.cpsc.gov/recalls), is the CPSC’s official list of all recalls announced in cooperation with companies. We analyzed notices from Jan. 1, 2024 through Dec. 31, 2024. We downloaded the database on Feb. 21, 2025 using the site’s Application Programming Interface.

We analyzed all 305 recall notices issued in 2024, and also compared the numbers and trends with years past. We looked at issues including the types of products, injuries and deaths, remedies and the hazards cited, such as fire, poisoning, lead or choking hazard.

In some cases, recall announcements were actually reannouncements or expansions of additional products being recalled. In some of these cases, the announcements aggregated the number of injuries to include injuries from previous notices. We broke these out so that we didn’t double-count them. Sometimes it was easy to break them out.

For example, with the Vitamix recall announcement in 2024, the [notice said](#) the company “received 27 reports of lacerations, including 11 reports from the prior 2018 recall, when consumers’ hands came in contact with exposed blades.” We counted only 16 new injuries since 11 were reported in the [original 2018 recall](#).

Other times it required more effort to break them out but we did. For example, with the Rainbow Play Systems trapeze rings [recall reannounced](#) in 2016, it said: “Rainbow has received more than 100 reports of the rings cracking or breaking, including 15 with reports of injuries consisting of bumps, bruises, lacerations, concussion and one broken finger.” However, the notice didn’t link to an earlier announcement. All 15 of those injuries were actually disclosed in the [original recall in 2015](#). So for 2016, there were no new injuries reported and we used an injury count of zero so that we didn’t double-count them.

In some cases, the recall announcements didn’t provide specific numbers or they were unclear. We used the lowest number we could confirm. For example:

- The 2024 [recall notice](#) for tip-over restraint kits said “millions” were recalled. “Millions” means at least 2 million, so that’s the figure we used. It could have been significantly higher.

- The 2024 [recall notice](#) for battery-powered coolers said: “The firm has received five reports of overheating, smoke and/or fire.” We aimed to tally the number of fires for each recall. But in cases like this, we couldn’t determine the exact number of fires. So we didn’t count any.
- The 2024 [recall notice](#) for Miniverse Make It Mini sets said: “MGA has received 26 reports of incidents with this product from children and adults, including reports of skin burns and irritation, and respiratory irritation, with one report that a consumer's asthma was triggered.” It wasn’t clear how many of those 26 incidents involved injuries. The notice just says the 26 reports included “reports of skin burns and irritation.” We counted just two because we couldn’t assume the plural reports of burns meant more than two.
- The 2016 [recall notice](#) for hoverboards said: “There have been at least 99 incidents reports of the battery packs in self-balancing scooters/hoverboards overheating, sparking, smoking, catching fire and/or exploding including reports of burn injuries and property damage.” It wasn’t clear how many of those 99 incidents involved injuries. The notice just says “injuries” plural. We counted just two because we couldn’t assume the plural injuries meant more than two.
- With recalls involving batteries or chargers, the description often says there were a certain number of “fires or other thermal incidents.” In the context of batteries, a thermal incident means fire, explosion or rupture. If the notice described property damage, we counted the incident as a fire. If the notices were vague, we counted only the number of fires we could confirm.

The CPSC’s other key site, [saferproducts.gov](#), includes reports and complaints, usually from consumers, physicians, coroners or other officials about incidents or injuries in connection with specific consumer products. We used the site’s search function to research specific cases.

On [saferproducts.gov](#), we reviewed various incident reports and complaints for 2024 and years past. The reports usually contain information including a narrative of the issue, the person’s age, the brand and model of the product, the date of the incident, the date the product was purchased, the date of the report and the date it was forwarded to the company. The reports sometimes include comments from the company, if it has replied to the CPSC after the complaint was forwarded to the company.

We used [cpsc.gov/Newsroom/News-Releases](#) to document civil penalty cases settled and unilateral warnings issued. Most unilateral warning notices have moved over to the recalls page, so people can see recalls and warnings on the same page. The new list lives on [this page](#). We analyzed Notices of Violation at [cpsc.gov/Recalls/violations](#).