

Inflatable play equipment (toy jumping castles)

December 2007

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To reduce the risk of injuries to children and bystanders, the Minister for Consumer Affairs has issued a Warning Notice to the public about toy jumping castles designed for domestic and personal use.
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Need more information?

Call Consumer
Affairs Victoria
Helpline on
1300 55 81 81.

Hazards

- Suffocation or entrapment through collapse of an unsecured or poorly anchored inflatable jumping castle.
- Injuries caused when an unsecured or badly secured castle tips over or collapses while children are playing inside.
- Injuries caused by equipment blowing away.
- Strangulation caused when children's clothing becomes caught on protrusions in the structure of the inflatable jumping castle.
- Strangulation or suffocation when children become trapped between gaps in the structure of the inflatable jumping castle.

Warning

Some toy inflatable jumping castles may:

- be made from inferior materials,
- have insufficient or non-existent points at which to securely anchor the unit to the ground,
- have protrusions that can catch children's clothing and cause strangulation,
- have gaps that can entrapment children and cause strangulation or suffocation.

Toy jumping castles that cannot be securely anchored to the ground when inflated can potentially tip over or become dangerously unstable while children are playing in them.

Product Safety Factsheet

Date of Issue:
December 2007

Quick tip

Ensure the inflatable is anchored down properly and securely.

Quick tip

Always watch children closely when they are playing in and near the inflatable.

Important safety tips

- Follow the instructions for correct assembly and use of the inflatable jumping castle.
- Do not erect or use the inflatable in high winds.
- Ensure the inflatable is anchored down properly and securely.
- Make sure there are no protrusions or gaps in the structure that can trap clothing.
- Make sure the blower is at least 1.2 metres from the inflatable to prevent users from striking the blower unit.
- Ensure strict adult supervision when using the inflatable jumping castle—always watch children closely when they are playing in and near the inflatable.
- Ensure users remove shoes, spectacles and sharp objects before entering the castle.
- Do not allow users to climb on to the walls.
- Limit numbers of children playing inside at any one time so that there is enough room to play safely.
- Do not deflate the equipment while children are playing inside or near the inflatable.
- Always deflate and store the equipment away in a safe place after use to prevent children from playing in it when adults are not there to watch them.

More information

Information on product safety is available from:

Consumer Affairs Victoria Victorian Consumer & Business Centre

113 Exhibition Street
Melbourne 3000
Telephone: 1300 55 81 81
Website www.consumer.vic.gov.au

Regional Offices

Consumer Affairs also has regional offices located in Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Morwell, Mildura, Wangaratta and Warrnambool together with a mobile outreach service that regularly visits rural communities. To find details on the office or mobile service nearest you, ring 1300 55 81 81 or go to the Consumer Affairs Victoria website on www.consumer.vic.gov.au and click on the Contact Us link.

Because this publication avoids the use of legal language, information about the law may have been summarised or expressed in general statements. This information should not be relied upon as a substitute for professional legal advice or reference to the actual legislation. Authorised by the Victorian Government 121 Exhibition Street Melbourne Victoria 3000. PS-22-01