



Carrickfergus Borough

TOY SAFETY

A toy is defined as: **'Any product or material designed or clearly intended for use in play by a child of less than 14 years of age.'**

Toys must satisfy essential safety requirements – these relate to general principals of design and construction, physical and mechanical properties, flammability, chemical properties, electrical properties, hygiene and radioactivity.

TEN TIPS WHEN BUYING TOYS



Unsafe toys can cause injuries and can even kill. Examples of problems that can make toys unsafe are:-

- unnecessary sharp points that could cause injury
- small parts which could cause a child to choke
- paint on a toy which may have excessive levels of lead
- exposed live electric parts that would cause electric shock to the user.

Although toys are involved in over 40,000 accidents each year, their safety is only part of the problem. Many accidents involving toys occur when people trip over them and when babies play with toys intended for older children.

All goods on sale to the public must be **SAFE** for their intended use. The responsibility to supply safe consumer goods applies all the way down from the manufacturer to the retailer.

This means, that products being sold should comply with any relevant legislation or recognised safety standard.

When purchasing toys follow these ten tips.

1. Only purchase goods from a reputable supplier/shop
2. Examine goods to ensure they carry safety symbols or signs, eg. CE Mark and appropriate warnings e.g. not suitable for under 3 years.
3. Read all warnings carefully and follow any operating instructions
4. Keep receipts as proof of purchase
5. Only use goods or equipment for the purpose for which they are intended e.g. they are suitable for the child's age
6. Don't let young children play with older children's toys
7. Check toys for loose hair and small parts, sharp edges and points
8. Dispose of any toy that is in poor repair
9. Keep play areas tidy
10. Supervise young children at play

For further information contact the Council's Environmental Health Section by telephoning 028 9335 8000 or email alison.marsh@carrickfergus.org.

