



# Home Tips®



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## Q & A

### U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission?

*With all of the product recalls lately, is there an organization that specializes in public safety?*

Yes and a very good one at that. They are called the Consumer Product Safety Commission. CPSC, an

**CPSC** Consumer Product Safety Commission

independent federal regulatory agency, helps keep American families safe by reducing the risk of injury or death from consumer products. Recalling dangerous products from the marketplace is one of the most important responsibilities of the CPSC. And CPSC's efforts to improve this process with its fast-track consumer product recall program they were recently recognized nationally as a leader in the field. The CPSC Fast-Track Consumer Product Recall Program was named a 1998 winner of the prestigious Innovations in American Government award, an awards program of the Ford Foundation and Harvard University, administered by Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government in partnership with the Council for Excellence in Government.

The CPSC fast-track product recall program speeds up the recall process and gets the most dangerous products out of people's homes. This saves industry and government both time and money, and reduces the potential for injuries and deaths to the public. Since CPSC instituted a pilot fast-track program in August 1995, more than 315 recalls involving about 50 million potentially defective products have been conducted. About half of CPSC's recalls are done under this streamlined system. The description of the CPSC fast-track product recall program is in CPSC's publication, the *Consumer Product Safety Review*, and can be viewed from their website or you can order the publication.

The CPSC has many excellent publication available and most of them are free. Some of the titles include:

- Art Materials
- Carbon Monoxide
- Child Drowning Prevention
- Children's Furniture
- Children's Safety

- Consumer Product Safety Review
- Electrical Safety
- Fire and Burn Prevention
- General Publications
- Household Products and Home Safety
- Indoor Air Quality
- Older Consumers
- Poison Prevention
- Power Equipment
- Public Use Products
- Recreational Safety
- Reports
- Toy Safety

The CPSC also has available a complete list of press releases (including recalls). All recalls and press releases are categorized by current month, last month's or by topic (children's products, toys, etc.). At their website you can search for specific products using their search engine. You can also have new recalls and other information automatically e-mailed to you when issued.

One of the newer products the CPSC has available is the *Baby Safety Shower HOW-TO-KIT*. If you're looking for ways to help parents take better care of their children, consider organizing a baby safety shower -- a baby shower with a new twist. A baby safety shower is a learning party where all the activities revolve around home safety themes. Parents and caregivers have fun -- and leave with new ideas about keeping their babies safe at home. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and Gerber Products Company developed this baby safety shower initiative to help good parents become even better ones. After all, no parent is born knowing about safety for their babies. The materials you'll need to get started are included in the *Baby Safety Shower How-to Kit*. Take special note of the *Baby Safety Checklist*, in both English and Spanish, which provides 12 important home safety tips that all parents should know.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission protects the public from the unreasonable risk of injury or death from 15,000 types of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction.

To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury and for information on CPSC's fax-on-demand service, call CPSC's hotline at (800) 638-2772 or CPSC's teletypewriter at (800) 638-8270. Contact CPSC's website at [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) or write to: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207.

