



December 2012

YOU SHOULD KNOW

IN THIS ISSUE

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Six Tips for Safe Toys
2012 Worst Toys
Dr. Toy's 100 Best



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Dear Jessica,

The holiday shopping season is full upon us! Here are some great tips on buying safe toys for the children in your life. We sincerely wish you and your loved ones a very happy and safe holiday. May it be filled with rich moments and great memories.



THE DOCKET /

> CHECK OUT OUR BETTER HEALTH CARE NEWSLETTER.

2012 Safe Toys Buyer's Guide

Study Reveals "10 Most Dangerous Toys of All Time"

Play beads that turn into a date-rape drug when swallowed? Popular dolls with mechanical jaws that munch kid fingers? Inflatable baby boats that suddenly release their infant passengers to sink under water?

Unbelievably these are not storylines from a bad horror movie, but real toys that were sold to millions of unsuspecting Americans, as revealed by the American Association for Justice in the just-released list of *The 10 Most Dangerous Toys of All Time*.

Toys are supposed to bring joy and happiness to children, especially during the holidays. And most do so safely. But for the 200,000-plus kids injured on average each year and the 270 killed since 1998, happiness became a nightmare. Whether giving or receiving, **You Should Know** more about safe toys this holiday season. [Go here.](#)



Play Beads Become Date-Rape Drug
Aqua Dots were a hit toy until kids started becoming violently ill after swallowing the beads. Turns out the coating metabolized into GHB – the date-rape drug – when sprinkled with water. [Learn more.](#)

BY THE NUMBERS /

262,300 Injuries

There were 262,300 serious toy-related injuries in 2011 and 13 deaths. Asphyxiation (often from choking on toy parts, small balls or balloons) was the leading cause of death, while non-motorized scooters caused the most injuries.

Source: *Toy-Related Deaths and Injuries 2011*, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

> LATEST NEWS FROM OUR PATIENT SAFETY BLOG

> CHILD SAFETY TIPS AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION FROM OUR CHILD PROTECTION BLOG

> MALPRACTICE A-Z: ANSWERS ON SPECIFIC TOPICS

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2 Million Toys

More than 2 million dangerous toys were seized at ports throughout the United States in 2012. Even so, federal officials urge consumers to stay vigilant when buying toys and children's products.

Source: [Standing Guard for Consumers](#), CPSC and U.S. Customs News Release

1.25 Inches

If a toy or part of a toy can pass through a toilet paper tube – approximately 1.25 inches in diameter – don't buy it for a child under age 3, or any child who still puts objects in his/her mouth.

Source: [Toy Safety](#), U.S. Public Interest Research Group

BOOKMARK FAVORITES /

Monitor Unsafe Toys from Your Mobile Phone

Bookmark www.toysafety.mobi on your cell phone's web browser and track unsafe toys while shopping; the site features a searchable list of recalled toys, tips on potential hazards and the [27th Annual Trouble in Toyland Survey](#).

Good Housekeeping 2012 Best Toys Vetted for Safety

The *Good Housekeeping* [Best Toy Awards for 2012](#) were vetted by staff, parents and 140 kids (ages 3 to 13) for creativity, skill-building and safety. Also check out [100 Best Toys 2012](#) from Dr. Toy (Stevanne Auerbach, Ph.D.), an expert on play, toys and children's products ([listen to interview](#)).

Group Outlines Challenges to Stopping Unsafe Toys

Government regulators alone can't protect our children from unsafe toys, according to [Playing with Safety](#) from the American Association for Justice. Continued vigilance by parents and consumer protection groups – backed by a strong civil justice system – is still needed.



Take Justice Back Spotlights Attacks on Your Legal Rights

Take Justice Back is dedicated to exposing corporations and special interest groups bent on limiting the legal rights of all Americans. From time to time, we will feature links to those stories from Take Justice Back here.

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Exclusive Interview with Dr. Toy

Dr. Stevanne Auerbach, known widely as "Dr. Toy," is a leading expert on play, toys and children's products. Parents, teachers and toy buyers all use Dr. Toy's guidance in selecting great toys.

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