

Product

Safety Alert

www.consumer.tas.gov.au

Hotline : 1300 65 44 99



Basketball Rings and Backboards

Since 1996 there have been three deaths and several serious cases of injury involving basketball rings in Australia. These have occurred due to the practice of 'slam dunking' where the basketballer hangs onto the basketball ring, and the brickwork supporting the basketball ring has collapsed on top of the players.

In many instances the structures on which basketball rings are installed are not able to support the extra weight of a basketballer performing this manoeuvre, and the installations can weaken over time from continual slam dunking.

A mandatory product safety standard under the *Sale of Hazardous Goods Act 1977* for basketball rings and backboards has been introduced and took effect from 22nd February 2006.

New basketball rings and backboards for sale will now carry a permanent warning which reads:

**'IMPROPER INSTALLATION OR SWINGING ON THE RING MAY CAUSE
SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH'**

Anyone with an existing basketball ring and backboard in their home is urged to consider the following points:

- a basketball ring and backboard should never be fixed to a single skin of brickwork;
- do not use a basketball ring and backboard mounted on brickwork until it has been checked for structural strength;
- the supporting structure of the basketball ring and backboard should be regularly checked to ensure that structural strength has not deteriorated;
- children should be warned to never hang or swing off the basketball ring.

GUIDELINES FOR ERECTING NEW BASKETBALL RINGS AND BACKBOARDS

New basketball rings and backboards should be:

- attached to a steel post that is set into a concrete footing of 500mm x 500mm diameter by 1 metre, to at least 800mm depth;
- fixed to a 'hot dip' galvanised steel post of 90 mm x 90 mm with a 5mm wall thickness;
- positioned where water does not pool around the base of the steel post, especially in saltwater areas.