

Consumer Affairs & Fair Trading



Product Safety Alert

Baby Bath Aids

A baby bath aid is a device with the purpose of supporting babies while they are being bathed in an adult bath, and are not designed to be a safety aid. Their use has been associated with many cases of drowning of preschoolers. They are not a substitute for adult supervision, and babies and young children should never be left unattended in the bath.

A mandatory safety standard has been implemented under the *Sale of Hazardous Goods Act 1977* for the supply of baby bath aids. The new safety standard took effect on 22nd February 2006 and requires clear and permanent warnings on the products and their packaging.

The new mandatory safety warning reads:

WARNING Children have DROWNED
While using bath aids.
This is NOT a safety device. ALWAYS keep
baby within arms' reach.
NEVER leave baby in care of children.

The standard requires that this warning not only be printed on any packaging, but also present on the product and visible to carers whilst a child is sitting in the device. Manufacturers and suppliers should contact this office for more information regarding compliance with this **mandatory Standard**.

As a guide:

- Never leave a baby alone in the bath for any reason not even for a second. If you must leave for any reason at all, take the baby with you.
- Never use a baby bath seat in a non-skid, slip-resistant bath the suction cups will not stick to the bath surface or can come loose unexpectedly. If suction cups show any sign of wear, discard the whole product immediately.
- Do not leave babies in the care of other young children.
- Baby bathing aids are no substitute for adult supervision. Babies and young children can slip out of a bathing aid and drown if left unattended, even for only a few seconds.

CONTACT DETAILS

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