

Consumer Affairs

& Fair Trading



Product Safety Alert

Baby Walkers

Most of the injuries suffered by children in baby walkers can be avoided by constant supervision. Most of the injuries are suffered by children under 12 months of age and are to the head. Baby walkers make children mobile much earlier than normal.

In a baby walker they can be across a room in seconds. Consequently, they face dangers they would not otherwise experience until a later age – they can pull boiling kettles down onto themselves, they can access open fires and heaters and they can fall down stairs.

Before you buy

- Check that the baby walker complies with the mandatory product safety standard, the United States Standard – Standard Consumer Safety Specifications for infant walkers F977-00.
- Look for an automatic braking mechanism to prevent it being ridden over a step.
- Check that it has an optional locking device to immobilise the walker when required.



Tasmania
Explore the possibilities

- Check that warning labels about safe use are clearly displayed.
- Check that there are no sharp edges or points.
- Check that the baby walker will support the weight of your baby.
- Make sure your baby's feet can touch the floor while sitting in the walker.

How to make your home baby walker safe

- Only use the baby walker on flat, level surfaces.
- Block off stairways and put barriers around stoves, heaters and fires.
- Keep items such as kettles, irons and hot drinks out of the way.
- Remove any objects that may cause the baby walker to tip over.
- Follow the safety instructions provided with the baby walker, especially those for locking the frame into position and adjusting the seat.

Most importantly, never leave a baby unsupervised in a baby walker.

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