



BABY WALKERS? - SAY "NO"



Please click on any of the links below to go directly to your specified topic within this document.

[Children in walkers are at greater risk](#)

[What you can do](#)

[Baby Stationary Activity Centre](#)

Health Canada has prohibited the usage of baby walkers in Canada since April 7, 2004. It is illegal to import, advertise for sale, or sell baby walkers at garage sales, flea markets, or on street corners in Canada. Despite this law enacted by Health Canada walkers are still being sold in flea markets, in classified ads and on the Web – or simply passed down from friends and family members.

Newer designs are wider so they cannot fit through most doorways and claim to be more stable. **The problem is they still have wheels!** In Canada, some 1,000 children using baby walkers are injured each year, and some fatally. Please read the following data and **SAY 'NO'** to baby walkers!

Just the facts:

- Baby walkers are associated with unacceptably high rates of injury, many of which are fatal.
- It is estimated that more children are injured in baby walkers than in any other infant product.
- Walkers are dangerous because they give an infant more mobility, speed and height than they are capable of handling.
- A child in a walker can move more than 3 feet in 1 second! Parents and caregivers simply cannot respond quickly enough.
- Falls down stair in walkers are the largest cause of head injuries in children under the age of two.

- International research shows that at least 30% of children placed in baby walkers have experienced injuries.
- Common baby walker injuries can be very serious and include concussions, skull fractures, inter-cranial hemorrhages, broken limbs, other fractures, contusions, abrasions, broken teeth, burns, scalds, poisonings, etc.
- Research shows that walkers do not provide any advantage to a child's development. Walkers do not teach infants to walk or enable them to walk sooner than they would without one. Walkers deny infants the necessary opportunities for pulling up, creeping, and crawling.
- Doctors strongly advise against the usage of walkers.

Children in walkers are at greater risk to:

Falls - most injuries associated with baby walkers are caused by falls. A child can run with the walker and tumble down stairs or the walker can tip over when it hits a small toy, a piece of furniture, the edge of a rug, pull on appliance cords, etc. A child can also crash into sharp furniture or fall onto fires, heaters or hot ovens. The combined weight of the baby and walker hitting the floor, steps, stairs or other object increases the likelihood of the injuries being severe.

Burns and Scalds – As well as the danger of falling onto or reaching out to sources of heat or flame, there is also an increased risk of scalding burns. The added height allows a baby to potentially grab and pull hot liquids or food onto themselves. Because of the child's upright position in the walker the resultant scalds are likely to involve the face and head and may cause permanent disfigurement.

Drowning – Children have drowned after falling into a pool, bathtub, or toilet while ambulating in baby walkers.

Poisons / Suffocation – Walkers increase a child's access to household poisons and choking hazards.

Cuts and Bruises – A child can also bump their heads on furniture and pinch fingers and toes between the walker and furniture. They can pull or knock over objects onto themselves, and objects may break or shatter causing further injury.

What you can do:

- If you have a walker, destroy it, and **throw it away** so it cannot be used again.
- Make sure that walkers are not being used wherever your child is being cared for, such as child day care centres or in someone's home.
- A stationary activity centre (no wheels) is a better choice than an infant walker. It provides many activities to



stimulate babies while keeping them safe if

Please Note:

It is illegal to sell baby walkers in Canada.
**Removing wheels from a baby walker does not make it a stationary activity centre.
Baby walkers should be destroyed and thrown away.**

Baby Stationary Activity Centre

A stationary activity centre is a small structure for a baby to sit up and play while being enclosed. These centres are usually mounted on a platform and have a tray. When babies are in one of these stationary activity centres, they can reach out and they can reach up, grabbing things they should not have or pulling things down on top of themselves. The stationary activity centre can tip over when an excited child rocks, jumps or bounces in it. To prevent injuries please read the following section.

Safety Tips

- Keep an eye on your baby! **NEVER** leave your baby alone in the activity centre. If the doorbell rings or you have to leave the room for any reason, take your baby with you.
- Keep the activity centre away from stairs, doors, windows, coffee tables, plants, lamps, TVs and wood stoves, fireplaces or heaters.
- Keep curtain and blind cords out of the reach of babies and young children.
- Think twice before you buy a used activity centre. Make sure it is in good condition. If it is damaged, it may be unsafe.
- Check the label to make sure the activity centre is strong enough to hold your baby's weight.
- Check for small parts that could be pulled or broken off and become a choking hazard.
- Inspect the stationary activity centre and all the attached activity toys on a regular basis.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- contact Product Safety, Health Canada at 1-866-662-0666 or cps-spc@hc-sc.gc.ca
- go to [Canadian Hospital Injury Reporting and Hospital Reporting](#)