Carriage and Stroller Safety

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

Choosing a Stroller or Carriage
Using a Stroller or Carriage Safely
Carriages & Strollers Regulations of the Hazardous Products Act
Exercise Caution When Using Strollers with Hinge Mechanisms

Since 2000, Health Canada has received 22 carriage and stroller incident reports involving both children and adults. Of the 22 incidences, 5 have led to injuries as serious as finger amputations, lacerations or bone fractures; however, the majority of reported incidents included bruising, small cuts or no injury at all.

It is recommended that consumers find out more about the safety features that are available for individual strollers and how to safely use the strollers by:

1. verifying the product label and product instructions,
2. visiting the manufacturer's website for information, and
3. asking a retailer for details.

Carriages and strollers are regulated in Canada by the Consumer Safety Association (CSA) to meet current health and safety standards. Every year, children are injured due to improper usage of harnesses and lap belts, and from being left unattended. Carriages and strollers made before 1985 may not be up to current safety standards and should not be purchased or sold.

Choosing a Stroller or Carriage

- Pick a sturdy model and follow the manufacturer's guidelines for your child's height and weight.
- Whether a carriage or stroller is new or used, choose one that comes with a manufacturer's label, Model number, date of manufacture and instructions for use.
- Choose a stroller that comes with a safety belt or lap harness that is solidly attached to the frame.
Ensure the brakes and locking mechanisms on folding models are in good working order.

Make sure the wheels are securely attached.

Using a Stroller or Carriage Safely

Never leave your children unattended in the stroller or carriage.

Make sure your children are seated properly and that the safety harness and lap belts are fastened appropriately.

When helping your children in and out of the stroller or carriage, use the brakes so as to prevent bumps and mishaps.

Make sure your children's hands and feet are out of the way when making adjustments to the stroller or carriage.

Check your stroller and carriage regularly for signs of damage and that the wheels are securely attached.

Do not use pillows or blankets as padding because they items can cause suffocation.

Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when placing additional items or accessories in or on the stroller and carriage.

Never use a stroller or carriage on an escalator.

If your child falls asleep in a carriage or stroller, leave the restraint system on and do not leave them unattended. Failing to use the restraint system further increases the risk of injury.

Transfer a sleeping baby or toddler from a carriage or stroller to their crib.

‘Carriages & Strollers Regulations of the Hazardous Products Act’

In Canada, the safety requirements for strollers are established in the Carriages and Strollers Regulations of the Hazardous Products Act. These regulations specify numerous legally binding safety requirements and strollers may only be sold, advertised or imported in Canada if they meet these requirements. For example, strollers must be equipped with a restraint system that includes, at minimum, a lap belt and crotch strap. This system not only prevents falls from the stroller, but also prevents entrapment by preventing the child from slipping down and becoming caught between the stroller's seat and tray. When the restraint system is not used, the risk of a child slipping or climbing out of the stroller is significantly increased.
The majority of strollers currently distributed in Canada also conform to the current ASTM Standard (ASTM F883). This standard specifies that the space between the seat and the stroller's tray be large enough to help reduce the risk of entrapment if the restraint system is not used. Health Canada is considering amendments to the Carriages and Strollers Regulations that would make this particular enhanced safety requirement mandatory for all strollers distributed in Canada. Any changes to the regulations would be facilitated through the standard regulatory process, which includes public consultation.

Health Canada's public education bulletins emphasize the hazards of leaving children to sleep unattended in strollers.

To obtain more information from Health Canada on this subject, please click on Carriages & Strollers.

Exercise Caution When Using Strollers with Hinge Mechanisms

In January 2010 Health Canada reminded "...parents and caregivers to exercise caution when using strollers with hinge mechanisms found on many collapsing/folding models as they can pose a risk of injuries such as minor cuts, bruising, lacerations or even fingertip amputations. These injuries tend to occur when the stroller is not opened or closed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. To prevent injury, consumers should always use caution when opening or closing strollers and ensure that children are at a safe distance when doing so.

In Canada, strollers must be accompanied by an instruction manual that includes a warning stating that care must be taken when folding and unfolding the product to prevent finger entrapment. Some products have additional safety features, parts and retrofit kits, such as hinge covers, to help reduce the potential pinching hazard."