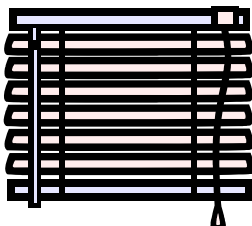




## Window Blind and Curtain Cord Safety



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**Andy Brisebois**, President of the Children's Safety Association of Canada has been a member of the Window Safety Council of Canada for over 15 years, wherein, the organization provides ongoing consumer information and awareness for window blind and cord safety.

**SINCE 1986, THERE WERE 28 REPORTS OF STRANGULATION DEATHS AND 22 NEAR-FATAL INCIDENTS LINKED TO BLIND AND CURTAIN CORDS. MOST OF THESE CHILDREN WERE UNDER THE AGE OF 3.**

**HUNDREDS MORE WERE RESCUED JUST IN TIME!**

**MAKE WINDOW COVERINGS SAFER FOR YOUR KIDS**

In April 2009, the Government of Canada announced new safety regulations for corded window coverings that will make these products safer for young children (publication in Canada Gazette, Part II). "A corded window covering" is defined as an interior window covering that incorporates a bead chain, cord or any type of flexible looped device in its operation.

The new regulations are designed to reduce the strangulation hazard posed by such coverings by limiting the use of flexible cord and bead chain loops. Although some industry members already voluntarily adhere to these standards, the new regulations will allow for enforcement by Health Canada under the Hazardous Products Act.

Most homes have blinds and curtains for window coverings, but have you ever stopped to consider the potential hazards? Cords from blinds and curtains can be dangerous to babies and young children. Looped, long or inner blind and curtain cords can strangle or entangle your child.

Since 1986, Health Canada has received 28 reports of strangulation deaths and 22 near-fatal incidents linked to blind and curtain cords. Most of these children were under the age of 3. Typically, strangulation incidents occur when infants or young children, in cribs or beds situated near windows, become entangled in the cords of the window covering. Young children may lose their footing and get wrapped in the cords while trying to look out a window or when climbing on furniture. When the child falls, the weight of the body causes the cord to act like a noose, resulting in strangulation.

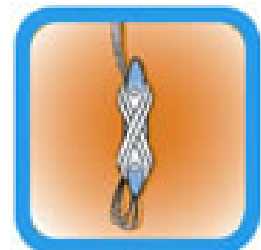
## Easy Steps to Ensure Your Children's Safety

Take the following easy steps to ensure that as your children grow and explore your home, you know they are safer around the window treatments and cords. These child safety measures are also important should your family or friend's children visit your home.

- ➔ Whether the blind is up or down, make sure children cannot reach the cords. Tie them out of reach.
- ➔ Never put a crib, bed, highchair or playpen near a window or patio where a child can reach the blind or curtain cord. Even if you have child guards on the windows, the temptation to investigate cords from hanging window coverings is strong for a young child.
- ➔ To prevent strangulation you **MUST** install safety cord stops on pull cords before using blinds!



- ➔ To prevent children from climbing up to reach the blind or curtain cord do not place sofas, chairs, tables, shelves or bookcases near windows.
- ➔ Cut the looped pull cord above the tassel, and remove the equalizer buckle (if it is present). Insert the cord through the tassel and tie the cord ends to secure the tassel.
- ➔ Remove the loop in the cord by cutting the cord in half. Put plastic tassels or a break-away device at the end of the cords.
- ➔ If you have vertical blinds install tie-downs which can be purchased at hardware or department stores. When installing tie-downs follow the



manufacturers' instructions and make sure the tie-down device is securely attached to the wall beside the window.

- ➔ Wrap the cord around a cleat or two nails or screws that you have attached to the wall near the top of the blinds or curtains, high and out of the reach of children.
- ➔ Use a clip, clothes pin, or big twist tie to keep the cord high and out of the reach of children.
- ➔ For children's rooms and places where children play, only use cordless window coverings.



### **Receive Your Free Window Blind Safety Kit – It's So Easy!**

The Children's Safety Association of Canada distributes free window blind safety kits for both vertical and horizontal blinds. To obtain your free window blind safety kit, please click on [Children's Safety Association of Canada](#) , locate '**Free Safety Pack**' and fill out the form. It's that easy!

We sincerely hope that this endeavour will contribute to the reduction of accidents involving young children.

**Install  
ONLY cordless window coverings  
in young children's bedrooms and sleeping areas.**

**Owners and Renters  
should replace all other window coverings  
in their homes made before 2001  
with current and safer window covering systems.**

### **HOW TO INSTALL CORD STOPS**

Lower the blind to its proper length and lock the cords into position at the head rail.

**Please follow the steps below for each pull cord:**

1. Pinch together a portion of the pull cord to create a loop near the head rail, and then slide the cord stop over the loop end.
2. Slip the free end of the pull cord through the loop

3. Loosely knot the cord stop onto the pull cord.
4. Tighten the knot to secure the cord stop 1" to 2" below the head rail to limit movement of the inner lift cords.



### **Instructions to Childproof Vertical Blinds with a Continuous Loop System and Drapery Cords**

These window coverings require looped cords to function. Do not cut the loops. Instead install a permanent tie-down device to the floor, wall or window jamb so that the cord or chain is pulled tight.



### **Instructions How to Eliminate Loops on Two-Corded Horizontal Blinds**

1. Cut the cord above the end tassel (the item that looks like a small wooden or plastic 'thimble')
2. Remove the equalizer buckle
3. Add new tassels for the two cords that have been created.
4. Slip a tassel onto each cord and tie knots to hold them in place.

5. A breakaway tassel will separate if a child becomes entangled in the loop.

**WARNING:** Children's Safety Association of Canada urges that you **DO NOT** tie the cords together after cutting them because that will only create a new loop in which a child can become entangled.

### **Instructions for Two-Corded Pleated Cellular Shades**

1. Leave the cord-stop in place as close as possible to the head rail when the blind is completely closed.
2. Cut the cords above the end tassel.
3. Knot a separate tassel at the end of each cord.

**WARNING:** When the shades are raised, a loop will appear above the cord stop. Always keep the cord out of reach of children.

Please visit [Health Canada's website](#) for more information about blinds and curtain cords.

### **Window Covering Cord Safety - Demonstration Video**

Please click on [Window Covering Cord Safety](#) to view Demonstration Videos courtesy of Health Canada.

Health Professionals can order copies of the Out of Reach safety demonstration video on VHS, DVD or CD-ROM by sending an email to [cps-spc@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:cps-spc@hc-sc.gc.ca), by calling 613-952-1014, or by fax 613-941-4376. You can also download the file from this site and save it to your computer by right-clicking on the video icon and selecting "save link/target as".

### **OUT OF REACH – Window Sticker**

The window static cling is intended to be attached to a window with corded window coverings. It will serve as a reminder to keep the cords high and out of the reach of young children when the window covering product is opened.

Please click on '[Order Form](#)' to order 'Out Of Reach' stickers and other reports and publications **free of charge**.



### **Corded Window Covering Products Regulations**



Government of Canada  
Gouvernement du Canada

Please click on the [Corded Window Covering Products Regulations](#) enacted by the Government of Canada on April 15, 2009 to view in entirety.