

MOST (UN)WANTED: TOP FIVE OF THE 231 CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS RECALLED IN 2007



1. AQUA DOTS

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTIC: THE COATING ON THE BEADS THAT CAUSES THAT TRANSFORMED INTO THE DATE RAPE DRUG WHEN INGESTED — SENDING TWO AMERICAN CHILDREN INTO COMAS.

KID CONSENSUS: MANUFACTURERS CUT CORNERS BY SUBSTITUTING A CHEAPER CHEMICAL. IMPROVING THE SAFETY OF IMPORTS INCLUDES DEMANDING THAT US MANUFACTURERS DESIGN SAFE PRODUCTS, PROVIDE OVERSIGHT TO THEIR OVERSEAS FACTORIES, AND TEST THEIR PRODUCTS BEFORE SALE.

2. SIMPLICITY CRIBS



DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTIC: FAILURES RESULTING FROM BOTH THE HARDWARE AND CRIB DESIGN CAUSED THE DROP-SIDE TO DETACH FROM THE CRIB, CREATING A GAP IN WHICH INFANTS CAN BECOME ENTRAPPED.

REPEAT OFFENDER: SIMPLICITY HAS HAD FOUR RECALLS IN THE LAST THREE YEARS, CAUSING AT LEAST FOUR DEATHS, NUMEROUS REPORTS OF INJURIES, PRODUCT DEFECTS INCLUDING HARDWARE FAILURE, DROP-SIDE DETACHMENT AND MATTRESS SUPPORT FAILURE, AND HAZARDS SUCH AS CHOKING, FALLS, SUFFOCATION AND ENTRAPMENT. SOME CRIBS HAVE BEEN RECALLED TWICE DURING THIS PERIOD.

KID CONSENSUS: THIS RECALL IS EMBLEMATIC OF THE SERIOUS WEAKNESSES IN CHILDREN'S PRODUCT SAFETY OVERSIGHT. THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT IN THE U.S. THAT JUVENILE PRODUCTS, INCLUDING CRIBS, BE TESTED FOR SAFETY BEFORE THEY ARE SOLD.



3. EVENFLO EMBRACE INFANT CAR SEAT/CARRIERS

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTIC: THIS CAR SEAT, WITH A HANDLE THAT RELEASES UNEXPECTEDLY, INJURED 160 CHILDREN BEFORE THE RECALL, CAUSING SKULL FRACTURES AND CONCUSSIONS.

KID CONSENSUS: THIS IS JUST ONE OF THE CARRIER RECALLS THIS YEAR AND ONE OF MANY IN THE PAST DECADE. BOTH HARD-HANDLED CARRIERS AND SOFT INFANT CARRIERS AND SLINGS HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF MANY RECALLS. ALL CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS SHOULD BE MADE TO EXACTING STANDARDS AND TESTED FOR SAFETY BEFORE THEY ARE SOLD.

4. EASY-BAKE OVENS



DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTIC: THE NEWLY DESIGNED EASY-BAKE OVEN ALLOWED KIDS TO INSERT THEIR HANDS INTO THE OPENING AND GET THEIR HANDS OR FINGERS CAUGHT AGAINST HOT METAL, THE RESULTING 249 INCIDENT REPORTS INCLUDED 77 REPORTS OF BURNS, ONE THAT REQUIRED A FINGER AMPUTATION.

KID CONSENSUS: WHILE THE EASY BAKE OVEN HAS BEEN A BELOVED TOY FOR YEARS, THE NEW DESIGN INCORPORATED A HEATING ELEMENT RATHER THAN A LIGHT BULB AND THE OPENING ALLOWED ENTRAPMENT. CHILDREN DON'T ALWAYS PLAY THE WAY ADULTS IMAGINE THEY WILL — WHICH IS WHY PRE-MARKET TESTING, INCLUDING HUMAN FACTORS ANALYSIS IS VITAL.



5. VARIOUS THOMAS AND FRIENDS WOODEN RAILWAY TOYS

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTIC: HIGH LEAD CONTENT

KID CONSENSUS: WE CAN THANK THOMAS'S DERAILMENT FOR CALLING THE PUBLIC'S AND CONGRESS'S ATTENTION TO THE LEAD IN CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS. NOW, WE NEED STRONG TESTING AND A BAN ON LEAD IN CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS.

TO SEE ALL THE PRODUCTS RECALLED IN 2007 AND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CHILDREN'S PRODUCT SAFETY, VISIT OUR WEBSITE, WWW.KIDSINDANGER.ORG OR CALL 312.595.0649

