

## Window Blind Cord Safety Awareness

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has identified window coverings with cords as one of the top five hidden hazards in the home. To prevent tragic child strangulations, CPSC recommends the use of cordless window coverings in all homes where children live or visit.

### Did You Know?

- ✓ About once a month a child between **7 months and 10 years old** dies.
- ✓ About once a month a child suffers a near strangulation.
- ✓ Over the last few years CPSC has recalled over **five (5) million** window coverings, including Roman shades, roller and roll-up blinds, vertical and horizontal blinds.
- ✓ Strangulation deaths and injuries can occur anywhere in the house or child care facility where a window covering with a cord is installed.
- ✓ Children can wrap window covering cords around their necks or can pull cords that are not clearly visible but are accessible and become entangled in the loops.
- ✓ Strangulation deaths and injuries can happen quickly and silently.



### Safety Tips to Help Prevent Strangulation and Death

- ✓ Examine all shades and blinds in the home and child care facility. CPSC recommends the use of cordless window coverings in all homes where children live or visit. Make sure there are no accessible cords on the front, side, or back of the product.
- ✓ Do not place cribs, beds, and furniture close to windows because children can climb on them and gain access to the cords.
- ✓ Make loose cords inaccessible.
- ✓ If the window shade has looped bead chains or nylon cords, install tension devices to keep the cord taut.
- ✓ If you cannot afford new, cordless window coverings, contact the Window Covering Safety Council at 800-506-4636 or at [www.windowcoverings.org](http://www.windowcoverings.org) for a free retrofit safety kit to make them safe.
- ✓ **Use cordless window blinds in homes and child care facilities with young children.**

### For More Information

To learn more about window blind cord safety go to the CPSC-Window Cord Information Center at [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) or the Window Covering Safety Council at [www.windowcoverings.org](http://www.windowcoverings.org).