

**SAFE
K:DS**
COLUMBUS

Piedmont
COLUMBUS REGIONAL

Newsletter

December 2025

Help us make every kid a safe kid

DECEMBER

Holiday Season Safety for Kids:

Your December Guide

As we enter December and the holiday season truly kicks into gear, it's a time of joy, gatherings, decorations — and also increased risk for children in a variety of environments. Many unintentional injuries happen in homes, on the road, with new toys or decorations, in colder weather and during travel. The mission of Safe Kids Columbus is to “protect kids from unintentional injuries” such as traffic crashes, falls, burns, poisonings and drownings.

CLASSES & SERVICES
safekidscolumbusga.org

Safe Sleep Class: includes a new portable crib for eligible parents.

Requires Program Application:

[CLASSES & SERVICES \(safekidscolumbusga.org\)](http://CLASSES & SERVICES (safekidscolumbusga.org))

Car Seat Class: includes a new car seat for eligible parents.

Requires Program Application:

[CLASSES & SERVICES \(safekidscolumbusga.org\)](http://CLASSES & SERVICES (safekidscolumbusga.org))

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Preventing Childhood Injuries at home, at play & on the way.

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Thank You To Our Partners



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Quick Tips To Follow & Share

- ◆ **Car-seat check:** At the belt path of the child's seat, tug the seat. If it moves more than 1 inch side to side or front to back, tighten and/or reinstall.
- ◆ **Smoke/CO alarm:** Test alarms monthly, replace batteries annually (or use 10-year sealed units), and replace entire alarm every 10 years.
- ◆ **Button-battery awareness:** Many bite-sized batteries are found in toys and electronics — keep locked away, teach children these are not candy.
- ◆ **Winter slip-and-fall prevention:** Inside – secure rugs, keep entryways dry; Outside – clear snow/ice, use good boots, supervise children near sidewalks/curbs.
- ◆ **Toy safety unwrap event:** Make unwrapping a supervised event, inspect for small parts, check age grading and packaging.
- ◆ **Never leave children alone in cars:** Even short durations can pose serious risk (extremes of temperature, carbon monoxide, etc.).
- ◆ **Reflect & plan:** End the year by reviewing what safety steps your family has taken, what might still need attention, and commit to one safety improvement in the coming year.



Holiday Safety Tips

**SAFE
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WORLDWIDE™

Holiday Safety Tips

Everything you need to know to keep your kids safe during the holidays.

It's that time of year again when we enjoy festive meals with family and friends, deck our halls with colorful decorations and listen to squeals of delight as our children open their brightly-wrapped presents. To help ensure your kids have fun and stay safe this holiday, here are a few tips to remember.

Decorate Your Tree With Your Kids in Mind

- Kids are curious and will want to play with the ornaments on the tree, so you might as well prepare. Move the ornaments that are breakable or have metal hooks towards the top of the tree. That makes room at the bottom for the ones that are safer for young kids.



Water the Tree Regularly

- Natural trees look beautiful and smell great, but if they're not watered regularly, needles can dry out and pose a potential fire hazard. Make sure your tree has plenty of water by checking it regularly.

Check the Lights

- Lights are one of the best parts of holiday decorating. Take a look at the ones on your tree and in and around your home for exposed or frayed wires, loose connections or broken sockets.

In 2012, 3,270 children 19 and under were seen in emergency rooms for injuries caused by nonelectric Christmas decorations, like broken ornaments. In 2011, an estimated 193,200 children were treated in an emergency room for a toy-related injury.



Blow Out Candles and Store Matches Out of Reach

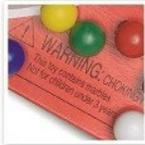
- Keep holiday candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn, and don't forget to blow them out when you leave the room or before you go to sleep.
- Make a habit of placing matches and lighters in a safe place, out of children's reach. Avoid novelty lighters or lighters that look like toys.

Keep Harmful Plants Out of Reach

- Plants can spruce up your holiday decorating, but keep those that may be poisonous out of reach of children or pets. This includes mistletoe berries, holly berry, and Jerusalem cherry.
- In a poison emergency, call the national Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222.

Find the Perfect Toy for the Right Age

- Consider your child's age when purchasing a toy or game this holiday season. It's worth a second to read the instructions and warning labels to make sure the gift is just right.
- Before you've settled on the perfect toy, check to make sure there aren't any small parts or other potential choking hazards.



Keep Button Batteries Away from Young Kids

- Keep a special eye on small pieces, including button batteries that may be included in electronic toys. While these kinds of games are great for older kids, they can pose a potential danger for younger, curious siblings.

Don't Forget a Helmet for New Bikes or Other Toys

- If your child's heart is set on a bike, skateboard or scooter this holiday season, be sure to include a helmet to keep them safe while they're having fun.



Prevent Spills with Pot Handles

- Kids love to reach, so to prevent burns from hot holiday food or liquid spills, simply use the back burner of your stove and turn pot handles away from the edge.

Engage Older Kids in Cooking

- Teach older responsible kids how to cook safely. Teach them never to leave the kitchen while they're using the stove or oven. Instruct older kids to use oven mitts or potholders to remove items from the oven or stove and teach them how to use a microwave safely.

Avoid Placing Foods on an Open Oven Door

- Your oven door may not be as strong as you think. To prevent oven tip-overs, place heavy foods or other items on a counter top out of the reach of young children, and not on an open oven door.
- An anti-tip bracket is a valuable tool to prevent oven tip-overs. If you have one, simply follow the manufacturer's instructions to install and use properly.

Check Your Car Seat Before Holiday Travel

- Seventy-three percent of car seats are not used or installed correctly, so before you hit the road, check your car seat. Here's a [quick car seat checklist](#) to help you out. It takes only 15 minutes. If you are having even the slightest trouble, questions or concerns, certified child passenger safety technicians are able to help or even double check your work. Find a [Safe Kids car seat checkup event near you](#).

Use Booster Seats

- Safety in the car goes beyond your little ones. Kids who have outgrown a forward-facing harness seat are not ready for a seat belt or front seat yet. They are safest in a booster seat that enables the adult seat belt to fit properly. Even when children have graduated from booster seats, they should remain in the back seat until they reach the age of 13.



Have an Exit Strategy on the Road

- So now the car is packed, the kids are in the right seat, the seats are installed properly, and you're on the open road. Nothing can stop you now, right? Wrong. That's when you hear that all too familiar "howl that means "I want food" or "Change my diaper." When it happens, please don't worry about making good time. Instead, get off at the next exit and find a safe area to feed or change your child.





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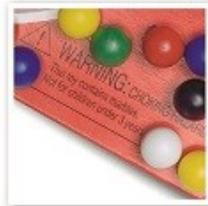
Toy Safety Tips

Everything you need to know to keep your kids safe around toys.

Toys and games are tons of fun for kids and adults. Whether your kids are working on a puzzle, playing with building blocks or even inventing their own games, here are a few things to think about to help them stay safer and have a blast.

Find the Perfect Toy for the Right Age

- Consider your child's age and development when purchasing a toy or game. Read the instructions and warning labels to make sure it's just right for your child.
- Before you've settled on the perfect toy, check to make sure there aren't any small parts or other potential choking hazards.



Don't Forget a Helmet for Riding Toys

- If your children have their hearts set on a new bike, skateboard, scooter or other riding equipment, be sure to include a CPSC certified helmet to keep them safe while they're having fun.
- [Learn more](#) bike safety tips and watch our [helmet safety video](#).



Store Toys After Play

- After play time is over, use a bin or container to store toys for next time. Make sure there are no holes or hinges that could catch little fingers.



Sign Up to Receive Product Recalls

- Safe Kids compiles product recalls specific to children and sends twice-monthly e-mail alerts for recent recalls. Sign-up for the [latest recall information](#).
- Go to www.recalls.gov for additional information about product recalls related to kids.



In 2016, 174,100 children under the age of 15 years were seen in emergency rooms for toy-related injuries. That's 477 kids every day. Almost half of those children were younger than 5 years of age.

Stay informed about product recalls



www.Recalls.gov Your Online Resource for Recalls

Consumer Products | Motor Vehicles | Boats | Food | Medicine | Cosmetics | Environmental Products

Recent Recalls

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Información en Español

To provide better service in alerting the American people to unsafe, hazardous or defective products, six federal agencies with vastly different jurisdictions have joined together to create www.recalls.gov -- a "one stop shop" for U.S. Government recalls.

Follow the tabs above to obtain the latest recall information, to report a dangerous product, or to learn important safety tips.

USA.gov
NHTSA NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION
FDA
USDA
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Consumer Products | Motor Vehicles | Boats | Food | Medicine | Cosmetics | Environmental Products

December



CAR SEAT CHECKUPS



ULTIMATE CAR SEAT GUIDE



LATEST RECALLS



BE A WATER WATCHER



SAFE INFANT SLEEP



PARENT PEP TALK PODCAST

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

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21	<u>Winter Activity Safety</u> 21- 27					
28	Year-End <u>Family</u> Safety Review 28 - 31					

SKC Booster Event Vehicle Safety Outreach Russell County, Alabama



Safe Kids Columbus lit up green at the Bill & Olivia Amos Children's Hospital on November 18th to celebrate National Injury Prevention Day

