

Your latest bulletin from Suffolk Trading Standards

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Suffolk Consumer Champion

Weekly Bulletin



This week's top features



The Suffolk Trading Standards Import Surveillance team have detained a consignment of approximately 200 dolls destined for a market in the North of England.

Officers were able to identify the dolls as being unsafe as the battery compartment fails to meet the requirements of toy safety regulations. The battery compartment is easily accessible. They should either be enclosed by a screw and a secure compartment, or need two independent or simultaneous movements to open the battery compartment. In this case the compartment had no screw and could easily slide open exposing the three button batteries.

Button batteries, especially big, powerful lithium coin cell batteries, can badly injure or kill a child if they are swallowed and get stuck in the food pipe.

Button batteries are small, round batteries that come in many different sizes and types. Lithium button batteries (often called 'coin batteries' or 'coin cell batteries') are most dangerous as they are larger and more powerful.

If a lithium coin cell battery gets stuck in a child's food pipe, it can cause catastrophic internal bleeding and death within hours of being swallowed.

Button cell batteries can be found inside electronic devices including toys, musical books, key fobs and remote controls. If swallowed by small children they can get stuck in the throat and cause severe burns within two hours, or even death.

The risk is greatest when the button/coin cells in these devices are being replaced. In most cases, they pass through the body naturally and do not cause any harm.

However, button/coin cell batteries can lodge themselves in the oesophagus (food pipe) when swallowed. This can be very dangerous and, at worst, fatal.

If left untreated, an ingested lithium coin cell, lodged in the oesophagus, can generate an electric current from the contact between the battery and tissue fluids in the oesophagus.

This will cause severe damage and urgent medical attention and immediate battery removal is required.

At least two children a year have died as a result of swallowing lithium coin cell batteries in

this country.

Ensure your child does not have access to devices if the battery compartment is not secure.

If your child does swallow a button cell battery, seek medical advice immediately.

Suffolk Trading Standards recommend installing a catch on a cupboard or drawer where you might keep spare batteries or small items, which may contain button batteries.

Batteries in children's toys are covered by safety regulations, which require them to be enclosed by a screw. Great care should be taken when buying toys from temporary shops or unknown traders online as they may not follow safety regulations.

If you are concerned about the safety of a toy that you have purchased, **stop using it immediately**, and contact Suffolk Trading Standards via 03454 040506.



Button batteries pose a deadly risk if swallowed

DON'T BUY FAKES
WORLD ANTI-COUNTERFEITING DAY - 6 JUNE 2019

ACCG
THE ANTI-COUNTERFEITING GROUP

A group of five people standing in front of a brick wall, each holding a sign that reads: COUNTERFEITS FUND, CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES, TERRORISM, DRUGS AND, MODERN SLAVERY.

Thursday marks World Anti-Counterfeiting Day. Fake and copy-cat toys are not only a challenge for the reputable toy sector, but can endanger children's safety.

The toy sector loses around 10% of annual sales to counterfeits. But it's about more than sales. Counterfeiters freeride on the time and resources reputable companies invest in innovation. If an operator is willing to profit by stealing ideas, it's highly likely that they will cut corners when it comes to making sure the toys they put on the market meet the EU's strict safety standards.

Parents may well feel the pressure to buy the latest 'must-have' toys for their children. Budgets are stretched and stores often sell out, so some parents might be tempted to look at cheaper versions available online – but this is also where counterfeit traders are taking advantage and cashing in.

Toys are subject to stringent regulations in order to ensure they are safe for children.

Tests on counterfeit toys have revealed they contain harmful levels of toxic chemicals. There is also a risk that parts could become detached from counterfeit toys and become a choking hazard.

Counterfeit electrical products present a particularly insidious threat to the consumer, undermining legitimate manufacturers and retailers whilst also often posing a risk of fire or serious electric shock.

Parents are advised to be cautious and follow this advice:

- Only buy from reputable shops;
- Look for the name and address of the manufacturer/importer, the type, batch, model or serial number;
- Check the toy has a CE mark – this is a declaration by the manufacturer that the toy is safe. These marks must be on the toy or its packaging and be permanent and easy to read. On small toys these marks may be on a label attached to the toy or on an accompanying leaflet and;
- Look for warnings and instructions – these are precautions that need to be taken to ensure safe use. Toys that are not suitable for children under three require a

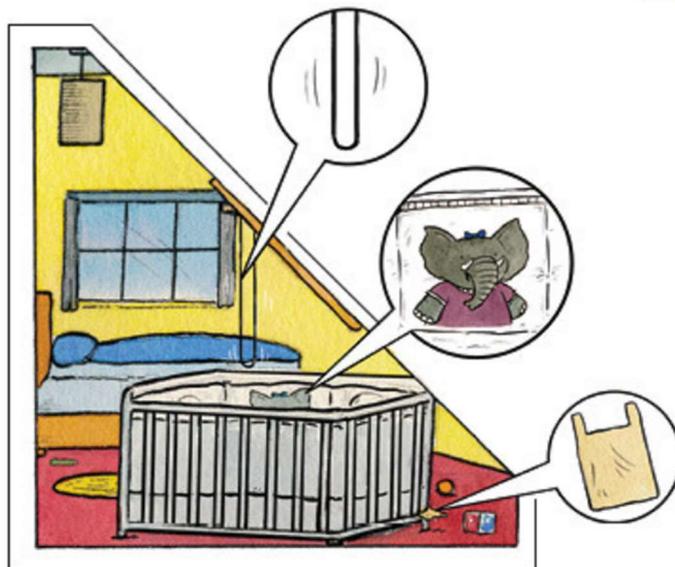
warning to this effect, plus the reason why – for example, they could be a choking hazard. This can be in the form of a pictogram or words.

If you come across a toy that you think is dangerous or counterfeit, please report it to Suffolk Trading Standards via 03454 040506.

Family life today: where's the risk?



www.childsafetyweek.org.uk



 facebook.com/ChildAccidentPreventionTrust

 [@childsafetyweek](https://twitter.com/childsafetyweek)

This week is Child Safety Week. [Child Safety Week is the flagship annual campaign](#) run by the Child Accident Prevention Trust.

Accidents are a leading cause of death, serious injury and acquired disability for children and young people in the UK. They account for three deaths every week and over 2,000 hospital admissions. Many of these accidents can be prevented. By their nature accidents

often happen when they are least expected.

Child Safety Week aims to help families make sense of the real risks to their children and the simple ways that accidents can be prevented.

The theme, Family life today: where's the risk?, highlights the new dangers facing us from our modern lifestyles and offers simple solutions to keep children safe.

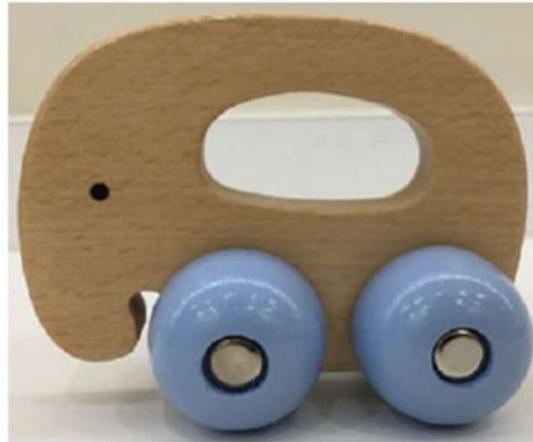
Family life today is more complex than it's ever been and often the very things that help make life more convenient bring new risks.

New dangers in the home include things like button batteries, particularly lithium cell coin batteries that can kill when swallowed, child-appealing washing capsules that can poison or nappy sacks stored under cot mattresses that can suffocate babies.

Dangers when out and about include distraction from devices when we're driving or walking near busy roads and the coffee culture trend that sees young children at risk from hot drink scalds in busy coffee shops.

To find out about some of the dangers and how they can be prevented, follow our advice on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Or to find out more about how you can get involved, head over to the [Child Safety Week website](#).

**PRODUCT
RECALL**



Lidl is recalling Playtive Junior Wooden Elephant Gripper Toy as the rivets on the wheels may become loose and cause a choking hazard for babies and small children.

The Wooden Toy was on sale on the 28/03/19.

If you have bought the above product, we advise you not to use it but to return it to a Lidl store for a full refund, with or without a receipt.

[Product Recalls](#)

[Fraud and Scam Advice](#)

[Consumer Rights](#)

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If you need advice, or want to report a scam or rogue trader,
call us via 03454 040506.



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