

WINDOW COVERINGS SAFETY ALERT

Recently, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) issued additional recalls on Roman Shades, Roll-Up Blinds and other window products. Also, the Window Coverings Safety Council recommends:

"Parents should replace all window coverings in the home with today's safer cordless products"

Please review the CPSC Safety Alerts <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/5115.pdf>

Drapery & Blind Cord Safety Tips

We recommend that you review all your window/door blinds and draperies again because children are still becoming entrapped in cords. We have seen some "new" blinds that do not meet current safety standards or blind cords that have been modified, causing a life-threatening hazard. Children are often fascinated with blinds and cords and can quickly find trouble. It is always important to re-assess your home. Please review these tips:

- Use cordless products in your home, especially in children's rooms and play areas.
- Please do not tie knots in your blind cords. If you tie your blind cords/tassels together, you are creating a serious hazard by creating a loop. Children have climbed on radiators, furniture and window sills and become entrapped in the loops.
- Cribs, beds, large toys and other furniture should be located away from windows and blind/drapery cords. Be extra careful if you have built-in furniture/shelves or radiators/baseboard heaters, since you can't remove them. We recommend that you remove step stools and small chairs from children's rooms and play areas because children may move them near a window.
- Use cleats to wrap up blind cords. We do not recommend that you tie up the blind cords or store the cords in the top of the blinds. Children may pull on the cords or babysitters may leave the cords in a hazardous position. Some blinds may appear safe, but a loop may be exposed when the blinds are raised (and the cords are longer).
- Even if you wrap the cords on cleats, the blind cords should be made as safe as possible by additionally retrofitting tassels in case someone forgets to wrap the cord up. Please review this link on retrofitting: http://www.windowcoverings.org/how_to_retrofit.html
- Older horizontal blinds should be retrofitted so that each cord has a tassel or a breakaway tassel should be installed. Also, older blinds should be retrofitted so they include cord stops. Cord stops are small rings (usually clear plastic) that are installed to help prevent entrapment in the internal cords (visit www.windowcoverings.org for photos and more information on cord stops). Replacing products that have cords with newer cordless products is a better solution.
- Some blind and drapery cords have continuous loop cords (this style does not have tassels). These loops should be secured with tie-down devices. You should regularly check to insure tie-down devices are secure. Visit www.windowcoverings.org for photos.
- Lock cords into position whenever horizontal blinds or shades are lowered (even when the blinds are resting on a window sill).
- If you use a "roller" shade as a cordless option, remove any long strings that may be attached in the middle (they are designed to help you reach the shade when raised).
- Be careful with tiebacks for draperies which may be composed of long cords and be a possible entrapment risk.
- Roman shades can never be made safe in the closed position because of the exposed cords in the back of the shade and should not be used where accessible to children.
- Educate grandparents, nannies, babysitters and caregivers about these important safety tips.

Even if you follow the above tips, blinds and draperies may still be a hazard. Any cord can pose a danger. For more information and photos, please visit: www.windowcoverings.org (free tie-downs and cords stops are available).

Recent Recalls for Window Coverings:

Please review the recalls because your home may have a similar product with the same cord risks.

Strangulation Deaths of Children Prompt Recall to Repair of Roll-Up Blinds and Roman Shades by Lewis Hyman Inc. <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml09/09324.html>

Near Strangulation Prompts Recall of Roman Blinds; Sold Exclusively at IKEA
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml09/09325.html>

Near Strangulation of Children Prompts Recall of Roman Shades; Sold Exclusively at Pottery Barn Kids
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml09/09326.html>

Risk of Strangulation Prompts Recall to Repair Victoria Classics Roman Shades; Sold Exclusively by Target
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml09/09327.html>

Risk of Strangulation Prompts Recall to Repair Roller Shades by Lutron Shading Solutions
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml09/09328.html>

Strangulation Death of a Child Prompts Recall To Repair Window Blinds By Vertical Land
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml09/09329.html>

Near Strangulation of Child Prompts Recall to Repair Window Blinds by Green Mountain Vista
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml09/09051.html>

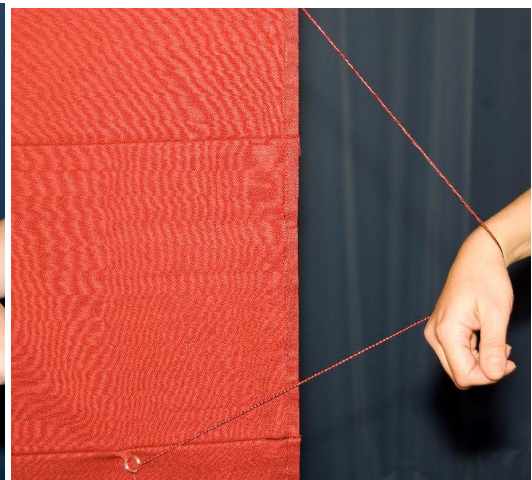
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<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml09/09050.html>



Example of Roll-Up Blind



Example of Roman Shade



Example of back of Roman Shade