



# Center's Tip of the Month: Toy Safety

-- Tips for a safe holiday season --

With the holidays right around the corner, the season of presents and new toys is upon us. While children are focused on the fun, parents know that safety is the most important consideration for toys. Harmful chemicals, such as phthalates and lead, are a danger to health and can be found in toys. Use these helpful tips and resources as a guide for your holiday shopping this year and ensure a safe and healthy New Year for the whole family!




## Tips & Resources

### What can you do? Beware of lead!

- ◆ Avoid vintage toys as they may contain lead paint.
- ◆ Check for toy recalls on the [U.S. Consumer Product Safety website](#).


### What can you do? Choose phthalate-free toys

- ◆ Toys made with polyvinyl chloride (PVC) often contain phthalates. Choose toys without PVC by checking the toy's label or looking for this symbol:  Safer plastic alternatives include polypropylene or polyethylene.

◇ NOTE: In 2009, the United States banned 3 types of phthalates from toys. However, toys intended for children over 12 years or containing types of phthalates other than those banned could be a concern.

- ◆ Avoid plastic toys! Try wood or fabric toys as a plastic-free alternative.

### What can you do? Read labels!

- ◆ Always choose toys with the appropriate age recommendation.
- ◆ Look for toys that meet the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) toy safety standards.
- ◆ Pay attention to the  **WARNING:** labels; they provide important information about a toy's safety.

### What can you do? Use these resources for safe and creative holiday gifts

- ◆ Check out Women's Voices for the Earth [Non-Toxic Shopping Guide!](#) It includes tips, resources and recommendations for safe gifts.
- ◆ Buying electronics? Take a look at [Electronics Without Brominated Flame Retardants and PVC](#), a comprehensive guide from ChemSec.
- ◆ Read these [Toy Safety Tips](#) from the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

**WISHING YOU & YOUR FAMILY A HEALTHY AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!**

**From the Center staff**

Have questions? Want to learn more? Please email us at [cccehcolumbia@gmail.com](mailto:cccehcolumbia@gmail.com)!



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