

# Quality Care For Kids Newsletter

December 2025 | Holiday Safety

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## How to choose safe toys for children

- Read instructions and warning labels when choosing toys for children. Toys are age-rated for safety. Make sure that toys and games are appropriate for the child's age and development.
- Choose toys for children under 3 that do not have small parts which could be choking hazards.
- Be cautious about toys that have button batteries or magnets. These toys can be harmful or fatal if swallowed.
- Make sure art and craft items are labeled as "nontoxic" and conform to ASTM D-4236
- Stay up to date on toy recalls.



**Did you know holiday plants like Holly, Mistletoe, Jerusalem Cherry and Bittersweet are poisonous? It's important to keep these where children can't reach them.**

A complete list of safe & non-toxic plants is available in the Iowa Poison Control Plant Guide.

[https://www.iowapoinson.org/media/cms/Plant\\_guideJan04\\_8219B933C8E8C.pdf](https://www.iowapoinson.org/media/cms/Plant_guideJan04_8219B933C8E8C.pdf)



Scan the QR code to find your local CCNC or visit online at <https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/programs-and-services/child-care/hcci>

Sign up for Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) recall alerts.



<https://www.cpsc.gov/Newsroom/Subscribe>

## How to safely decorate for the holidays

- Make sure holiday decorations still allow you to use all doorways and exits.
- Only use indoor lights indoors and outdoor lights outdoors.
- Replace all string lights with broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections.
- Before you plug string lights into the outlet, read the directions on the package and do not plug in more lights than the directions say are safe.
- Use LED or flameless candles instead of candles with a flame.
- Place trees at least 3 feet away from heat sources like vents or space heaters.
- Place breakable ornaments or ornaments with small parts on higher tree branches where small children can't reach them.



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