



If you already have corded blinds or curtains in your home:

- keep the cords out of the reach of children
- visit the shop where you bought the blinds, or a hardware store, to see if you can modify the blinds to make them safer



If you are thinking about buying corded blinds or curtains for your home:

- make sure they incorporate safe design features, and carry warnings about potential strangulation hazards
- make sure that no loops are left hanging down



It doesn't matter which room in your home has a corded blind or curtain.

Children are very quick. They can get into trouble in only a few seconds.

Disclaimer: The information in this brochure is general in nature and may not be relevant to your specific circumstances. While the Australian Government has made every reasonable effort to provide current and accurate information, readers should be aware that the Australian Government accepts no responsibility for this brochure's contents and recommends that users exercise their own skill and care with respect to its use.

REMEMBER!

DON'T put your child's cot or bed near a window with corded blinds or curtains.

DON'T leave your child unsupervised near a corded blind or curtain.

DO check with the manufacturer/supplier to see if you can modify your blinds or curtains.

DO make sure that all cords are kept well out of the reach of children.



Australian Government

The Treasury

Department of Health and Ageing

The Australian Government would like to acknowledge the work of the Blind Manufacturers Association of Australia and their commitment to ensuring safe products for all Australians.

For further information contact

Consumer Safety Unit
The Treasury
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Phone: (02) 6263 2747

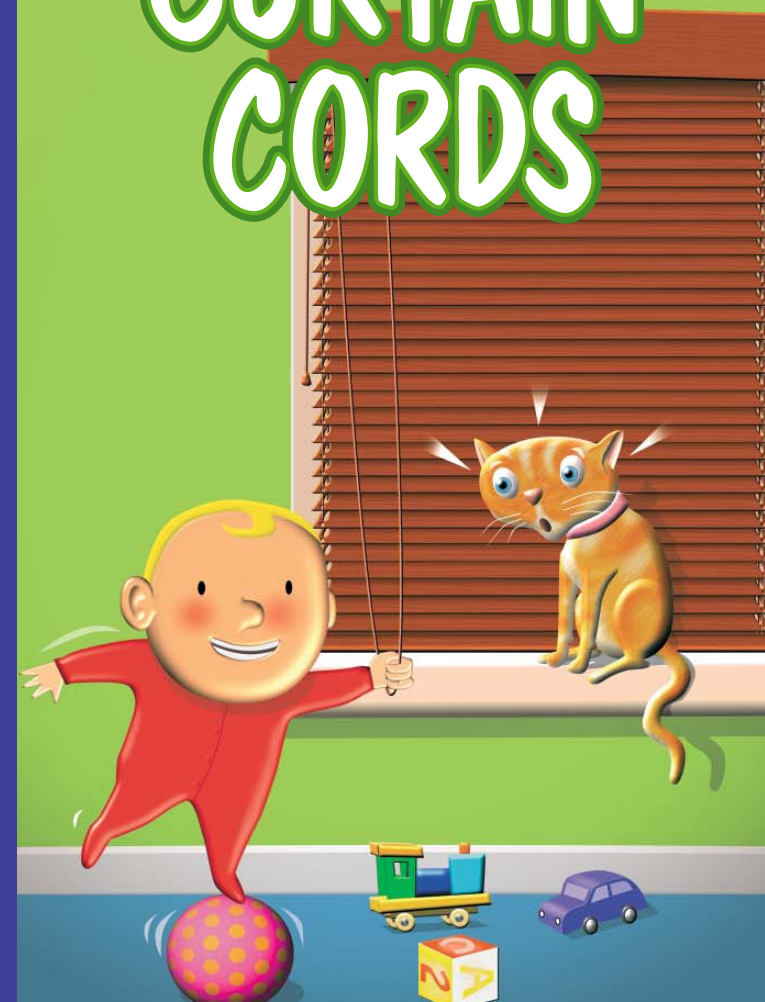
Fax: (02) 6263 2830

Or the consumer protection agency in your state or territory.

For further copies of this and other consumer information publications please call 1300 305 866 or order online at www.consumeronline.gov.au

SAFETY ALERT!

BLIND & CURTAIN CORDS



Many people don't realise that blind and curtain cords can be dangerous for babies and young children — particularly those under the age of three.

Children can injure, or even strangle, themselves on blind and curtain cords.

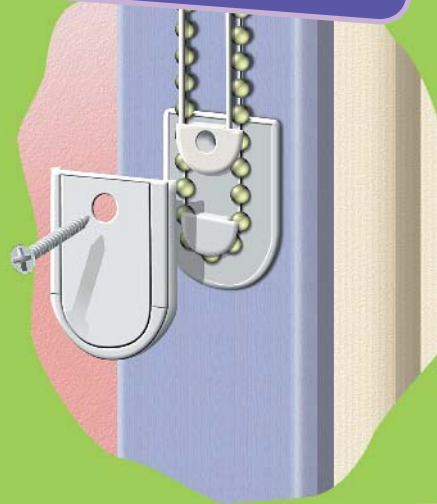
A child can place their head in the loop created by a blind cord. If the child then tries to sit or falls down, they can hang themselves in the loop. The cord or chain loop used to open and close vertical blinds can also strangle children.

Since 1991, over 170 children have died this way in the United States. Over ten Australian children have also been accidentally strangled by blind and curtain cords.

There are several simple steps you can take to minimise this risk — and help to keep your children safe.



If you have vertical blinds, install a cord tensioning device (available from hardware stores or curtain shops) which encloses the cord or chain loops.



Wrap the cord around a cleat (available from hardware stores) attached to the wall near the top of the curtain or blind.



Be aware that children can climb onto furniture and play with blind and curtain cords.

Make sure that your child's cot, bed, highchair or playpen are not placed near a window where they can reach the curtain or blind cord.



Make sure that curtain and blind cords are not left hanging within the reach of children.

The bottom of any cord should be at least 1600 millimetres above the floor.

