

2010 "10 Worst Toys" List

SPY GEAR SPLIT-BLASTER

Price: \$9.98
Manufacturer or Distributor: Wild Planet Entertainment, Inc.
Purchased: Toys R Us
Age Recommendation: "Ages 6+"
Warnings: "Warning! Do not aim at eyes or face. To avoid injury: use only with darts designed for this product. Do not modify darts or blaster."

HAZARD: POTENTIAL FOR EYE INJURIES!

W.A.T.C.H. OUT! The manufacturer of this dart gun with two "adjustable barrels" encourages children to load two darts at the same time. The barrels can then be "split" to take aim at two different targets simultaneously, allowing for the "launch [of] a double dart strike" at an approaching enemy. The blaster can shoot the supplied darts with enough force to potentially cause eye injuries.

SUPASPLAT SPLATBLASTER

Price: \$19.99
Manufacturer or Distributor: Tech Group (USA) LLC
Purchased: K Mart
Age Recommendation: “8+”
Warnings: “Glasses should be worn at all times.... Glasses can not provide an actual protection”; The glasses are only the toy eyeglass but not a genuine one”; “Do not aim...at or near another person or animal”; and other safety warnings and cautions.

HAZARD: POTENTIAL FOR EYE, FACE AND OTHER IMPACT INJURIES!

W.A.T.C.H. OUT! The “Supasplat Splatblaster” shoots “splatballs” at a high velocity as part of a “target game for family fun.” The packaging alerts users that failure to follow the numerous safety instructions “could result in injury.” Incredibly, while these instructions advise that the supplied glasses “should be worn at all times”, additional warnings on the packaging and the glasses themselves state, among other things, that “glasses can not provide an actual protection.” Furthermore, individual packs of Splatblaster ammunition sold separately advise to “[a]lways wear protective glasses....”

BUZZ MAGNETS

Price: \$6.09
Manufacturer or Distributor: Westminster
Purchased: Amazon.com
Age Recommendation: “For Ages Over 5”
Warnings: “This product contains small magnets. Swallowed magnets can stick together across intestines causing serious infections and death. Seek immediate medical attention if magnets are swallowed or inhaled”, and other warnings on packaging.

HAZARD: POTENTIAL FOR CHOKING AND INTERNAL INJURIES!

W.A.T.C.H. OUT! These “polished, high-powered, oval shaped magnets” are marketed and sold as a toy for children. Their “powerful magnetic force”, however, has the potential to cause severe internal injuries. If more than one magnet is swallowed, they can attach inside the body, potentially causing intestinal perforations, infection or a blockage which can be fatal. There have been recalls of toys that incorporate such magnets due to the significant risk of injuries.

KUNG FU PANDA SWORD OF HEROES

Price: \$7.98
Manufacturer or Distributor: Mattel, Inc.
Purchased: Toys R Us
Age Recommendation: “6+”
Warnings: None (other than battery safety information on package insert).

HAZARD: POTENTIAL FOR IMPACT INJURIES!

W.A.T.C.H. OUT! This “Sword of Heroes” toy is based upon the popular Kung Fu Panda movie. The rigid, plastic sword and dagger blades are designed to operate separately, or to be transformed into one “giant warrior weapon.” This sword has the potential to cause serious facial or other impact injuries.

BALLZILLION TUG BOAT PLAY CENTER

Price: \$29.98
Manufacturer or Distributor: better toyz/Better Sourcing Worldwide, Ltd.
Purchased: Toys R Us
Age Recommendation: “3+ Years” (box); “DO NOT ALLOW ANYONE TO USE THIS PRODUCT WHO IS UNDER THE AGE OF 18 MONTHS (package insert and toy)
Warnings: Package Insert and Toy: “THIS PRODUCT IS INTENDED TO BE USED AS A TOY AND NOT A FLOTATION DEVICE”; “DISREGARD AND NOT FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS...COULD RESULT IN INJURY OR DEATH ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN”; and other warnings.

HAZARD: POTENTIAL FOR “INJURY OR DEATH”!

W.A.T.C.H. OUT! This inflatable “tugboat” is sold for “indoor & outdoor” use, inviting young children to “sail into fun...” The box warns only about keeping the product away from fire, and cautions that it is to be used only under competent supervision. However, additional warnings inside the packaging include: “This product is intended to be used as a toy and not as a flotation device” and “[d]o not use near swimming pool.” The boat is sold with inconsistent age recommendations, and despite a warning not to “stand on...this product”, the child pictured on the box appears to be standing on the floor of the vessel.

MY FIRST MINI CYCLE

Price: \$14.97
Manufacturer or Distributor: Amloid Corporation
Purchased: Toys R Us (Express)
Age Recommendation: “18m+”
Warnings: “**WARNING: This toy should not be used on or near hills, roadways, sloped driveways, alleys, steps or swimming pools**” (on box); “**CAUTION: ALWAYS WEAR A HELMET**” (only on package insert); and other warnings/cautions.

HAZARD: POTENTIAL FOR HEAD AND OTHER IMPACT INJURIES!

W.A.T.C.H. OUT! This plastic mini cycle, marketed for toddlers as young as 18 months old, sits approximately 5 _ inches off the ground [seat height]. Its low profile makes the toy potentially hazardous for outdoor use. Furthermore, despite a caution on the package insert requiring the use of a helmet, the young rider pictured on the box has no safety gear.

PULL ALONG CATERPILLAR

Price:	\$7.98
Manufacturer or Distributor:	Imaginarium/Geoffrey, LLC, Subsidiary of Toys R Us, Inc.
Purchased:	Toys R Us
Age Recommendation:	“12+m”
Warnings:	None.

HAZARD: POTENTIAL FOR CHOKING INJURIES!

W.A.T.C.H. OUT! This multi-colored, wooden caterpillar is sold as a pull toy for 12-month-old babies. The toy includes a “breakaway pull string” with a plastic connector that is intended to separate, presenting a potential choking hazard for oral age children. Furthermore, the plastic connector itself is a small part which is attached only by a knot in the string.

ANIMAL ALLEY PONY

Price: \$8.99
Manufacturer or Distributor: Toys R Us
Purchased: Toys R Us
Age Recommendation: “0+”
Warnings: “CAUTION: Remove all tags, twist ties and plastic loops before giving toy to child.” (on tag only).

HAZARD: POTENTIAL FOR INGESTION/ASPIRATION INJURIES!

W.A.T.C.H. OUT! This soft, colorful pony is sold for infants. The toy has long, fiber-like hair that is not adequately rooted and is easily removable, presenting the potential for ingestion or aspiration injuries. This hazard is not referenced anywhere on the product or product tag.

BIG BANG ROCKET

Price: \$11.51
Manufacturer or Distributor: Can You Imagine
Purchased: Amazon.com
Age Recommendation: None
Warnings: “Warning! Do not use close to the ear! Misuse may cause damage to hearing.”

HAZARD: POTENTIAL FOR HEARING LOSS!

W.A.T.C.H. OUT! Children of all ages are instructed to place squares of old newspapers into the snap-top of this rocket, before tossing it into the air to “wait for the BIG BANG.” The warning on the throw away packaging, which compares the resulting loud noise to that produced by cap guns, states that “[m]isuse may cause damage to hearing”.

WALKAROO II ALUMINUM STILTS

Price: \$49.99
Manufacturer or Distributor: Geospace International
Purchased: Village Toy Shop
Age Recommendation: “Ages 5 & Up”
Warnings: “Do not use near stairs, steep inclines, swimming pools or uneven surfaces”; “Always remain in control of your motions”; and other safety cautions.

HAZARD: POTENTIAL FOR HEAD OR OTHER IMPACT INJURIES!

W.A.T.C.H. OUT! These aluminum stilts are made for both indoor and outdoor use by children as young as 5 years old. The safety instructions include cautions to use only on dry and flat surfaces, and not near “stairs, steep inclines, [or] swimming pools....” The manufacturer further cautions that children attempting to balance on the toy must “[a]lways remain in control of [their] motions.”