

4. Keep children away from all cords/chains

- Move anything a young child can sit in, stand in or climb on (like cots, highchairs, beds, sofas, tables, chairs and bookshelves) away from cords/chains—even those tied around a cleat, as your child may be able to untie them.
- Do not let your child play near cords/chains they can easily reach.
- Never leave your child alone in a room with cords/chains they can reach.



Further information

For more blind and curtain cord information and to sign up for email alerts about a range of infant and nursery products, visit www.productsafety.gov.au

Contacts

ACCC Infocentre: business and consumer inquiries
1300 302 502

Callers who are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment can contact the ACCC through the National Relay Service
www.relayservice.com.au

www.productsafety.gov.au

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
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Important notice

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SAFETY ALERT

Blind and curtain cords



**Loose
blind and
curtain cords
can kill**

**Fix them out of reach so kids
are out of danger**

Blind and curtain cord hazards

Loose blind and curtain cords/chains—particularly those with loops—are dangerous.

A child can place the loop over their head or get tangled in loose cords when:

- sleeping in a cot or bed where cords are hanging
- playing near cords
- standing on a chair, sofa or bed to look out of a window.

Children do not understand that a cord/chain wrapped around their neck can tighten and strangle them in just a few minutes if they sit down, roll around or climb to the floor.

Since the early 1990s at least 15 young Australian children have tragically died in this way.



Steps for protecting children

Take these four simple steps to ensure that blind and curtain cords/chains in your home are out of reach of children, particularly children under six.

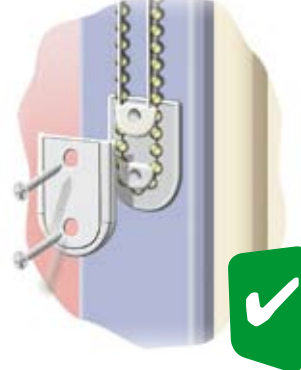
1. Check your blind and curtain cords

Do this anywhere you are staying, including on holiday.

- Check for loose or looped cords that your child can reach from the floor or by climbing on furniture.
- Immediately tie cords out of reach and move away any furniture children might climb on to reach them.

2. Secure loose cords out of reach

- Buy cleats or tensioning devices from a hardware store or curtain and blind shop.
- Use at least two screws to fix each cleat or tensioning device in a place that is out of reach of children.
- Never secure these devices with materials that fail when a load is placed on them, such as double-sided tape or glue.



You can cut the dangerous loop out of some cords/chains and attach a tassel to the end of each strand. Some blinds will not operate without the loop, so get specialist advice before doing this.

If you cannot fix your unsafe cords and chains out of reach, get a reliable tradesperson to do it for you. If you are renting your home, seek help from your landlord or agent.

3. Choose safe blinds and curtains

Only buy new curtains and blinds which:

- have warning labels to remind you of dangers to children
- provide a way to secure cords/chains so there are no loops or strands that children can reach, or
- operate without exposed cords/chains.

