



Office for Product
Safety & Standards

A collection of colorful toys including a teddy bear, stacking blocks, and a bucket with tools.

Shop safely this Christmas

The flurry of Christmas shopping means it can be easy to lose track of what you're buying. Whether you're browsing online or in store, it's important to protect yourself and those you're buying for.

This advice will help you shop safely and enjoy your Christmas.

The 12 rules of Christmas

The variety of toys on offer means the occasional second-rate product can sneak onto the market. Always complete these 12 checks when buying for kids.

1 Look for the CE symbol

This means the manufacturer has assessed the toy for safety.



2 Check it's for kids

Festive novelties can look like toys. Keep them away from kids.



3 Reputation matters

Buy from suppliers who have a good reputation for safe and reliable toys. They'll be required to meet high standards and can answer your questions.



4 Beware of bargains

Jumble and car boot sales are a great place to get a good deal, but it's worth taking extra care. Worn or old toys may no longer be safe.



5 Check age restrictions

Toys are clearly marked with age restrictions. It's important to follow these as they relate to risks such as sharp points or choking hazards.



6 Consider special needs

When checking age restrictions, remember that children with special needs might be more vulnerable, and make sure to shop accordingly.



7 Choking hazards

Small parts and loose or shedding fabric or hair can be a choking hazard.



8 Loose parts

Loose ribbons on toys and costumes can also be dangerous, especially if a child is left unsupervised. Think before you buy.



9 Inspect your toy boxes

Check toys you already own to see if they're too worn. Wear and tear can expose sharp edges or filling. If it's a family favourite, get the toy properly repaired.



10 Supervise when you need to

Some toys like chemistry sets need an adult on hand during playtime. Read all the instructions so you know how to control any hazards.



11 Tidy up

Boxes, plastic bags and wire can be a hazard. Clear away all packaging once everything's unwrapped.



12 Celebrate a safe Christmas

Completing these checks when you shop in store and online can save you a lot of stress later. Just make sure to remember batteries (and dispose of these safely too)!