NEWS from CPSC

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

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CPSC Announces Multiple Play Yard Recalls Due to Strangulation Hazard

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) announced today the voluntary recall of more than 9.6 million play yards/playpens with protruding rivets because they pose a strangulation risk. The playpens being recalled carry the brand names Bilt-Rite, Evenflo, Gerry, Graco, Kolcraft, Playskool, Pride-Trimble and Strolee. Toddlers can strangle in these playpens if pacifier strings or loose (or loosely woven) clothing catches on the playpens' protruding rivets.

Since 1983, CPSC has received eight reports of toddlers who strangled in their playpens when pacifier strings or clothing they were wearing caught on the playpens' protruding rivets.

Consumers should check the outside top rails of their playpens for protruding metal rivets. The rivets are similar to nut and bolt fasteners, but the rivets cannot be removed. The rivets protrude about one-quarter to one-half inch from the outside top rails of the playpens. The shape of each playpen's rivets vary, so check the unit carefully.

If protruding rivets are found, consumers should stop using the playpens immediately and call (800) 794-4115 anytime to get the remedy being offered for these recalled playpens. Six companies are offering remedies and two companies are out of business.

CPSC reminds parents and caregivers that a pacifier should never be hung

from a string around a child's neck.

The Bilt-Rite, Gerry, Graco, Kolcraft, Playskool, Pride-Trimble and Strolee playpens are drop-sided, mesh playpens that fold in half for storage.

Evenflo's Houdini playpen is a portable, mesh playpen that folds up for storage and travel. All Houdinis manufactured between 1994 and 1996 are subject to this recall even if they have plastic covers over the rivets. The rivet covers on these playpens must be replaced because they are defective and can crack, break or come off exposing the rivet and presenting a risk of strangulation.

The following table identifies playpens with protruding rivets that are being recalled.

Companies Participating in Recalls of Playpens with Protruding Rivets
(Playpens without protruding rivets are not part of this recall)

Manufacturer/ Remedy	Brand Names/ Description	How to Identify	Estimated Quantity Made/Cost	*Incidents
Graco Children's Products Inc. Elverson, Pa. $20 refund with proof of destruction	Graco Drop-sided, mesh playpen that folds in half for storage	"Graco" is written on floorboard or side rail	2 million made from 1976 through 11/90 Cost $35 to $55	Five deaths
Bilt-Rite Orangeburg, N.Y. $20 refund with proof of destruction	Bilt-Rite Drop-sided, mesh playpen that folds in half for storage	"Bilt-Rite" is written on floorboard	More than 409,000 made through 1989 Cost $35 to $55	One death

Kolcraft Enterprises Inc. Chicago, Ill. Repair kit	Kolcraft or Playskool Drop-sided, mesh playpen that folds in half for storage	"Kolcraft" or "Playskool" is written on floorboard or side rail	2.6 million made from 1/86 through 5/98 Cost $40 to $70	One death
Pride-Trimble Corp. Burbank, Calif. Gardena, Calif. Southern Pines, N.C. $15 refund with proof of destruction	Pride-Trimble Drop-sided, mesh playpen that folds in half for storage	"Pride-Trimble Corp." is written on floorboard	More than 4 million made from 1960 through 9/91 Cost $35 to $55	None known
Pride-Trimble Inc. Weber City, Va. Out of Business Destroy	Pride-Trimble Drop-sided, mesh playpen that folds in half for storage	"Pride-Trimble Inc." is written on floorboard	100,000 made from 10/91 through 1993 Cost $35 to $55	None known
Evenflo Co. Inc. Piqua, Ohio Repair kit	Houdini Portable, mesh playpen that folds up for storage and travel	"Evenflo" is written on plastic hinge covers All units made from 1994 through 1996 are recalled	205,000 made from 1994 through 1996 Cost $45	None known

Hufco-Delaware Dayton, Ohio Repair kit	Gerry Drop-sided, mesh playpen that folds in half for storage	"Gerry" is written on floorboard	100,000 made from 1986 through 1992 Cost $35 to $45	None known
Strolee Co. Compton, Calif. Out of Business Destroy	Strolee Drop-sided, mesh playpen that folds in half for storage	"Strolee" is written on side rail	200,000 made through 1983 Cost $35 to $55	None known

Immediately stop using these playpens and call (800) 794-4115 for information about participating in any of these playpen recalls

*CPSC is aware of one toddler death from a playpen whose manufacturer is unknown.

Consumers should immediately stop using these playpens and call (800) 794-4115 anytime to participate in the recall. If consumers have a playpen with protruding rivets made by a company not participating in the recall, they should stop using it immediately and report this information to CPSC's Hotline at (800) 638-2772.

Once again, CPSC reminds parents and caregivers that a pacifier should never be hung from a string around a child's neck.

There are many different models of playpens without protruding rivets. Playpens without protruding rivets are not part of this recall.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission protects the public from the unreasonable risk of injury or death from 15,000 types of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury and for information on CPSC's fax-on-demand service, call CPSC's hotline at (800) 638-2772 or CPSC's teletypewriter at (800) 638-8270. To order a press release through

fax-on-demand, call (301) 504-0051 from the handset of your fax machine and enter the release number. Consumers can obtain this release and recall information at CPSC's web site at http://www.cpsc.gov. Consumers can report product hazards to info@cpsc.gov.

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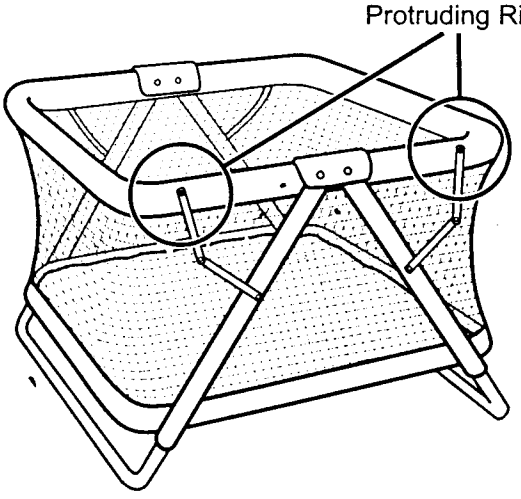
PLAY YARD / PLAYPEN RECALL STRANGULATION HAZARD

Over nine million playpens — sold from 1960 through 1998 under eight different brands — are being recalled in cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Since 1983, CPSC has received eight reports of toddlers who strangled in their playpens when pacifier strings or loose (or loosely woven) clothing caught on the playpens' protruding rivets.

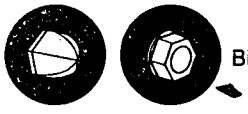


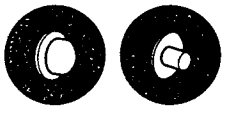
Strolee, 1983

Graco, 1976 through 11/90

Gerry, 1986 through 1992
Kolcraft, Playskool, 1/86 through 5/98

Evenflo, 1994 through 1996

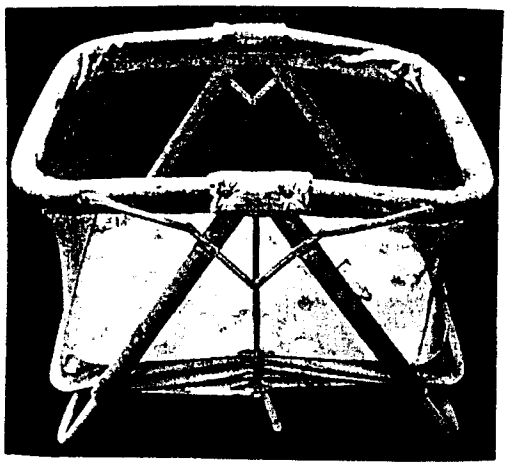

Bilt-Rite, through 1989


Pride-Trimble Corp., 1960 through 9/91
Pride-Trimble Inc., 10/91 through 1993

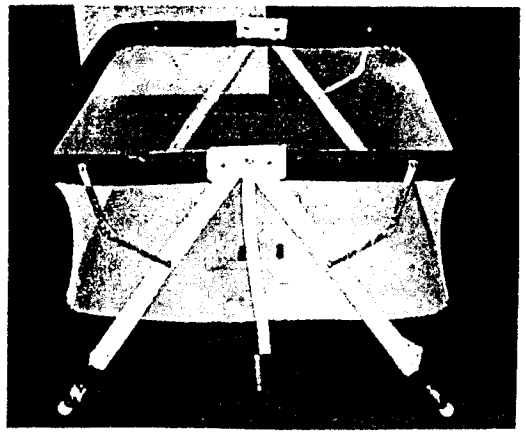
Check attics, basements and daycare centers. If your playpen has protruding rivets, stop using it immediately and call, toll-free, 1-800-794-4115 anytime to get the remedy offered for your recalled playpen. Check your unit carefully before calling. Playpens without protruding rivets are not recalled.

Never hang a pacifier cord or string around a child's neck.

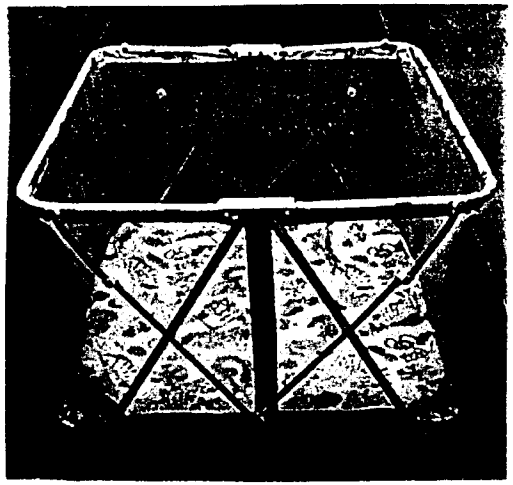
Form 377-1-99



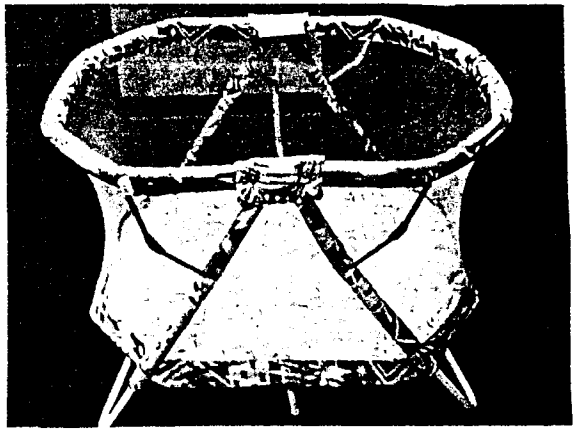
PRIDE-TRIMBLE



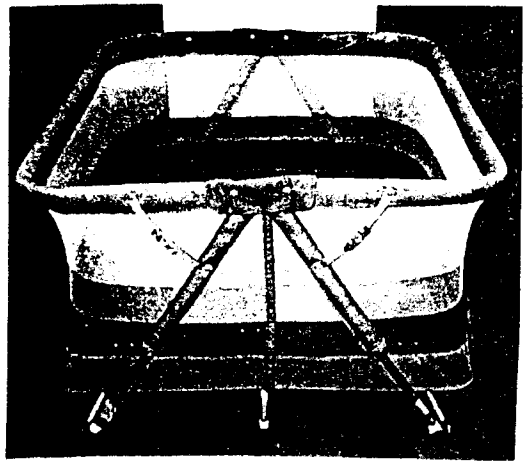
GRACO



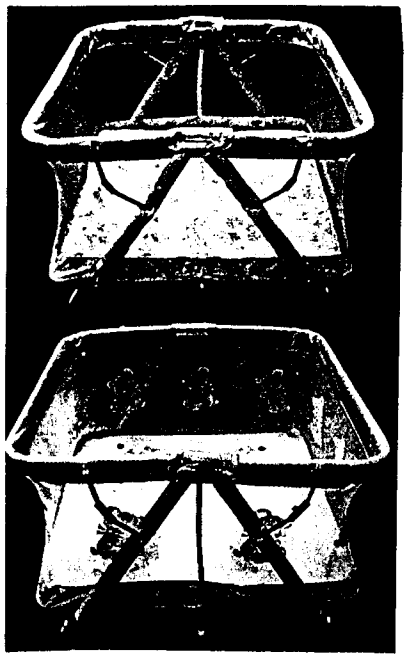
BILT-RITE



KOLCRAFT or PLAYSKOOL



GERRY



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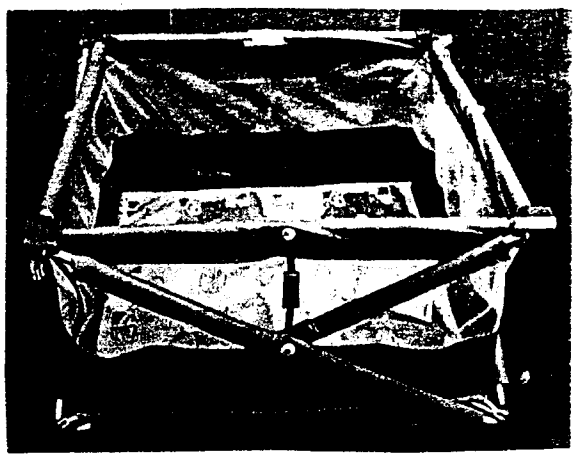

EVENFLO HOUDINI