

**MARINE CORPS BASE, CAMP PENDLETON, CA
FAMILY HOUSING
WINDOW COVERING CORD SAFETY INFORMATION**

UNEXPECTED DANGER IN YOUR HOME?

Parents Beware: The Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) has identified window coverings with cords as one of the top five hidden hazards in the home. About one child a month dies becoming entangled in a window blind cord. CPSC has recalled over five million window coverings: Roman shades, rollers and roll-up blinds, vertical and horizontal blinds.

Strangulation and entanglement injuries can occur in the home anywhere a window covering with a cord is installed. Children can wrap window covering cords around their necks or can pull cords that are not clearly visible but are accessible and become entangled in the loops. These incidents happen quickly and silently. To prevent tragedies CPSC recommends the use of cordless window coverings in all homes.

Pull cords, Looped Bead Chains or Nylon Cords, Inner Cords of Roman Shades and Lifting Loops of Roll-up Blinds are all safety hazards.

CPSC offers the following safety tips to prevent deaths and injuries associated with window covering cords:

- **Examine all shades and blinds in the home.** Use only cordless window coverings with no accessible cords in front, side or back of blinds. Repair or replace blinds, shades and draperies manufactured before 2001 that have pull cords ending in a loop that are the cause for risk of strangulation.
- Move all cribs, beds, toys or furniture away from windows and window cords because children can climb on them and gain access to the cords.
- Make cords inaccessible. Make sure tasseled pull cords are short and continuous-loop cords are permanently anchored to the floor or wall.
- If the window shade has looped bead chains or nylon cords, install tension devices to keep the cord taut.
- Lock cords into position whenever horizontal blinds or shades are lowered, including when they come to rest on a windowsill.

Consumers can receive a free repair kit from the Window Covering Safety Council's website at <http://www.windowcoverings.org> or by calling (800) 506-4636. You may also visit www.cpsc.gov to learn more about window covering safety.

Signature

Date

Print Name