

# TOYS

From page 1

Two American children and three in Australia who swallowed the dots became hospitalized, The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Web site, [cpsc.gov](http://cpsc.gov), reported.

The American children slipped into a coma but have since recovered.

Toy retailers have taken toys such as 4.2 million Aqua Dots bead toys, Thomas & Friends railroad toys, Dora the explorer lamps and Curious George dolls off their shelves because they have toxic substances on them or can injure children in some other way.

Dora the Explorer lamp has a potential for shocks and burns. Meant to appeal to the youngest of children, it carried a warning, "It should not be placed where small children can reach it," stated the Web site [toysafety.org](http://toysafety.org).

Toys "R" Us, Target and KB Toys took further steps to stop the sale of recalled toys by putting a block on the barcodes at registers. The bar code on a bad toy would not allow it to be sold, said Amy Von Walter, Target spokeswoman.

"When a recall takes place we act rapidly to ensure the safety of our consumers," said Jerry Storch, chairman and chief executive officer of Toys "R" Us.

"We have strict procedures in place, which include immediately removing items from the sales floor, our stockrooms, our websites and our distribution centers."

KB Toys, Target, Toys "R" Us and Wal-Mart all have information on



The Go Diego Go Animal Rescue boat contains lead paint.



Jack Sparrow's Spinning Dagger could cut eyes.

recalled toys at their stores.

"We've heard parents' concerns over recent recalls and we're working hard to be their advocate, ensuring everyone involved in the toy business plays their part in improving standards," said Laura Phillips, Wal-Mart's merchandise manager over toys. "Parents need reassurance over quality and safety -we feel the very same way and will work night and day to help."

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Employees have been trained to deal with the relaxed rules for toy returns to the store for refunds, said Geoffrey Webb, director of advertising for KB Toys.

"If a customer has a toy that they feel may be on the recall list, our store associates are here to help them clarify if the toy is on the list and assist them in return procedures," Webb said.

Parents remain watchful about

## Dangerous Toys

The "10 Worst Toys" 2007 list, with their companies by the group World Against Toys Causing Harm

- >> **Go Diego Go Animal Rescue boat**, by Fisher Price. Contains lead paint
- >> **Sticky Stones**, GeoCentral. Magnetic stones that if swallowed could stick together cause infection and death.
- >> **Jack Sparrow's Spinning Dagger, Zizzle**. Spinning daggers attached to child's wrist could cut eyes.
- >> **Dora the Explorer Lamp, Funhouse**. Potentially shocking and burning a child.
- >> **Lil "Giddy Up" Horse – Sassy Pet Saks, Douglas**. Fibers and small parts could be a choking hazard.
- >> **Spider Man 3 New Goblin Sword**, Hasbro. Rigid plastic could cause injuries.
- >> **Hip Hoppa, Spin Master Ltd. And Vivid Imaginations Ltd. Combination footboard and bouncing ball** that children jump on has potential for head and other injuries.
- >> **B'Loonies Party Park**, Ja-Ru Inc., Zapf Creations AG. Baby doll comes with a tiny pacifier that could be swallowed.
- >> **Rubber Band Shooter**, Simple Toys LLC. Shoots rubber bands presenting an eye hazard.

## On the Web

>> View recalls and other possibly hazardous toys on the Web sites: [www.toysafety.org](http://www.toysafety.org) and [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)

toy choices.

"My children aren't young, but I still watch what toys they get," said Jennifer Hiatt, 43, Naples resident. "My children are 7 and 14, and I keep an eye on the gifts we buy them." ■

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