

Children can strangle themselves on curtain and blind cords. Making your curtains and blinds safe is cheap and easy

For product safety advice contact:

**Department of Consumer and Employment Protection
Consumer Protection Advice Line 1300 30 40 54**

(for the cost of a local call statewide)

8.30am - 5.00pm weekdays

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North-West	(08) 9185 0900
Kimberley	(08) 9169 2811

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Government of Western Australia

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curtain &
blind cords

SAFETY FOR KIDS

*in the home 



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Curtain and blind cords can be a real danger to your children. Children can get caught in the cords and be strangled. This can happen when the cords are too long or they end in a loop, and when furniture or bedding is too close to windows.



Making your curtains and blinds safe is cheap and easy.

Check all the blinds and curtains in your home and then follow these tips to remove any hazards permanently.

Making your existing curtains and blinds safe

- Cords ending in a loop are particularly risky. Cut the cord to get rid of the loop* and install tassels (see illustration B). Cords should end at least 1.6 metres above the ground so children cannot reach them.
- Replace cords with curtain or blind wands.
- Where cords cannot be cut (for example with some vertical blinds) a tie down or tension device can be used to pull the cord tight and secure it to the floor or wall (see illustration A).
- Never put a cot, bed, high chair or playpen near a window or patio door where a child can reach a curtain or blind cord.
- Keep sofas, chairs, tables, shelves or bookcases away from windows to prevent children climbing up and reaching curtain or blind cords.

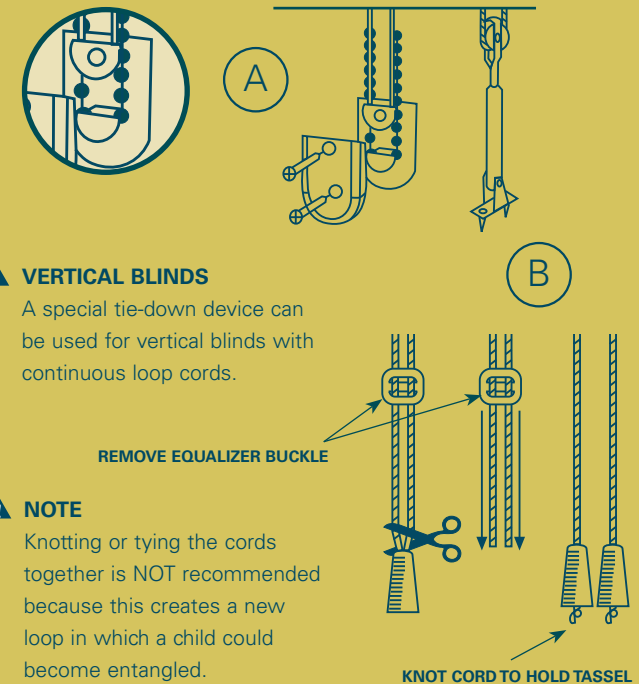
New blinds and curtains

From April 2004, the following mandatory safety standards apply for the supply and installation of corded internal window coverings:

- looped cords must end more than 1.6 metres from the base of a blind or curtain when in a lowered position;
- OR
- a tie down or tension device to pull the cord tight and secure it to the wall or floor must be supplied and installed on vertical blinds and draperies that need a continuous loop that is less than 1.6 metres from the base of the window;
 - a warning label and tag must be included; and
 - where the window covering is to be installed by a consumer, written installation instructions for both the covering and any safety devices must also be supplied.

Products supplied or installed after April 2004 must comply with the new mandatory standard for internal curtain and blind cords. If you have purchased a new product after that date that does not comply with the standard, please contact Consumer Protection on 1300 30 40 54.

Making your curtains and blinds safe is cheap and easy.



▲ VERTICAL BLINDS

A special tie-down device can be used for vertical blinds with continuous loop cords.

▲ NOTE

Knitting or tying the cords together is NOT recommended because this creates a new loop in which a child could become entangled.

* YOU WILL NEED TO ENSURE THAT THE BLIND WILL CONTINUE TO BE OPERATIONAL IF ADJUSTED.

You can get the above products from hardware stores and curtain shops.