



## PARENT PLUS

INFORMATION FROM YOUR PEDIATRICIAN

### Check cribs for defects before placing babies back to sleep

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has issued numerous recalls on cribs since fall 2007. Common defects include broken, missing or improperly functioning hardware.

Particularly risky are cribs with drop-sides. The moving side can be jolted from the tracks, permitting the drop-side to detach from the crib. Defects in the moving parts have caused injuries and death to children who became entrapped or strangled.

CPSC recommends that parents take the following precautions:

- Do not use any crib with missing, broken or loose parts.
- Hardware should be inspected and tightened from time to time.
- Check to make sure the drop-side or any other moving part

operates smoothly on its track.

- Check all sides and corners of the crib for disengagement, which can create a gap and entrap a child.
- Do not try to repair a crib without manufacturer-approved hardware or with tape, wire or rope.
- Putting a broken side up against the wall does not solve the problem and often can make it worse.

To determine if a crib has been recalled, visit [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov).

When choosing a crib, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) advises parents to ensure that the crib meets current safety standards. Cribs manufactured since 1990 will have slats no wider than  $2\frac{3}{8}$  inches



apart so a child's head cannot become trapped, will have no cutouts in the headboard or footboard, and will not have corner posts.

Falls are common with cribs but can be prevented by lowering the crib mattress and ensuring the mattress fits snugly, according to the AAP.

Finally, keep the crib away from windows. Cords from blinds or other window coverings pose a strangulation hazard.

— David Ma