

# Editorial

## CPSC FINDS HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS BEING SOLD IN THRIFT STORES

On November 18, 1999, the Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) kicked off a national campaign to alert the public that many thrift stores sell hazardous products that have been recalled, banned, or that do not meet current safety standards. In a nutshell, what this means is that the bargain that you pick up in a thrift store just may not be a bargain. A CPSC random review from May - December 1999 of over 300 selected thrift stores revealed that 69% were selling at least one hazardous product.

The top three products found were children's jackets and sweatshirts with drawstrings that present strangulation hazards, hairdryers that do not protect against electrocution, and cribs that do not meet current safety standards.

Second hand products may be an excellent way to save a dollar, and this message is not written to criticize thrift stores. Rather, it is written to educate you to the possibility of safety problems of which you may not be aware. CPSC is attempting to get commitment from thrift stores to stop selling potentially hazardous products. CPSC has prepared a checklist for both thrift stores and shoppers, as well as model legislation for state governments. To get a free copy of the checklist, visit the CPSC web site at <http://www.cpsc.gov>, or by sending a postcard to "Thrift Store Checklist", CPSC, Washington, D.C., 20207.

Anyone who purchases a second-hand product should check with CPSC to determine if it has been banned, recalled or violates current safety standards, and to get information on the appropriate remedy. To receive recall notices directly from the CPSC, sign up for instant e-mail notices on their web site or send a fax with your name and fax number to (301) 504-0399.

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