

# Consumer Product Safety Alert

FROM THE U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20207

## CPSC Issues Warning That Choking On Small Balls Can Be Fatal To Young Children



During a recent one-year period, CPSC received reports of 7 deaths of children involving small balls. The youngest child was 10 months old. Due to the small size of the balls they can easily become lodged in the airway of young children.

Caregivers are warned that young or handicapped children can choke on these small balls and that they should not be available to them. Care should also be taken to assure that older children don't play with small balls around younger siblings.

Since these small balls are found in many types of retail establishments, in vending machines, and some games intended for older children, the CPSC is concerned that caregivers be aware of the choking hazard and keep all such small balls away from children who may have a tendency to put them into their mouths.

The packages and vending machines containing small balls, with a diameter of 1.75 inches, must be labeled with the following cautionary statement:

**⚠WARNING**  
**CHOKING HAZARD—This toy is a small ball. Not for children under 3 yrs.**