



CPSC Safety Alert

Paper Shredder Safety Alert

Consumer model paper shredders are very popular. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) wants you and your family to be safe when using a paper shredder. CPSC has received reports of incidents involving finger amputations, lacerations, and other finger injuries from paper shredders, especially those manufactured prior to 2007. These injuries typically occur to children under the age of 5 years.

Young children are interested in imitating adult activities, and children may try to activate the shredder when an adult is not present. This puts children at risk of injury.

Injuries can occur even when an adult is supervising a child. Children's fingers can be pulled into the paper shredding mechanism if they don't let go of the paper.

CPSC offers the following safety tips when using a paper shredder:

- Never allow children to operate paper shredders, even under adult supervision. Shredders can pull children's fingers into the shredder mechanism before they have time to react.
- Place the paper shredder in an area less accessible to children.
- Unplug the paper shredder power cord when the shredder is not in use.
- Do not place hands or fingers in the shredder opening.
- Do not operate a paper shredder while wearing loose fitting clothing that may enter the shredder opening. Keep hair and items, such as a tie or a long necklace, away from the shredder opening.
- Newer paper shredders, manufactured after 2007, are safer in design. They minimize the chances of children's fingers entering the paper shredder opening.



Never allow children to operate a paper shredder, even under adult supervision. Injuries can still occur. The pull force of the shredder can draw a child's fingers into the shredding mechanism.