



CPSC Safety Alert

High-Powered Magnets and Children Make a Deadly Mix

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is urging parents, grandparents, and caregivers to keep loose, high-powered magnet sets out of sight and out of reach of all children. Toddlers, tweens, and teens have suffered severe injuries or death after ingesting multiple magnets.

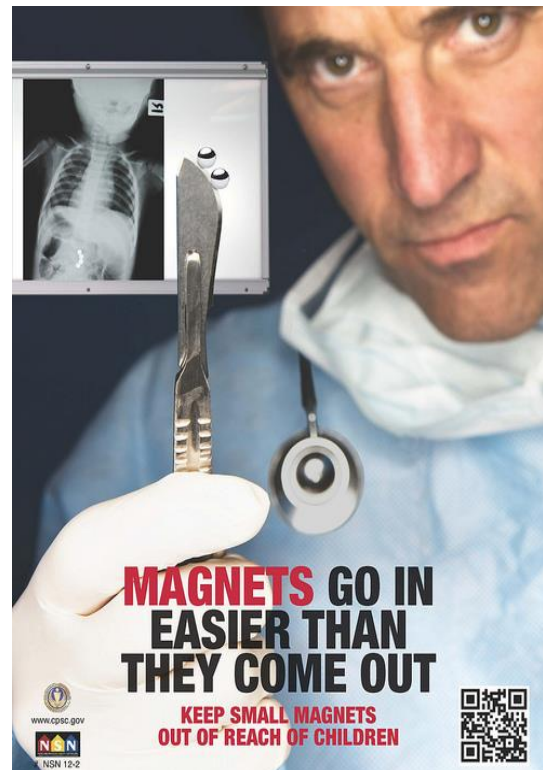
Although the risk scenarios differ by age group—young children see the magnets like candy and tweens and teens use the magnets to create fake lip and tongue piercings—the danger is the same. When two or more magnets are swallowed, they can attract to one another internally, resulting in potentially lifelong injuries—and even death.

Swallowed magnets can attract through intestinal tissue, clamping together and causing tissue injury or tissue death. Magnets can also burrow through intestinal walls, creating blockages or life threatening infections. Many children have been rushed in to surgery to remove multiple magnets from their gastrointestinal tracts and a 19-month-old girl tragically died after ingesting magnets.

Magnet sets may be marketed as desk toys and stress relievers for adults but can end up in the hands of children. CPSC has received reports of toddlers finding loose pieces of magnets or magnets left within a child's reach. It can be extremely difficult for a parent or caregiver to tell if any magnets are missing from a set. Because the symptoms of magnet ingestion mimic a stomach ailment or the flu, it is often difficult for medical professionals to diagnose a magnet ingestion.

CPSC offers the following tips to save lives and prevent serious injuries from the hidden dangers posed by small, powerful magnets:

- If you suspect that magnets have been swallowed by a child, seek medical attention immediately. Injury can occur within hours of magnets connecting inside the intestine.
- Watch for abdominal symptoms, such as abdominal pains, vomiting and diarrhea.
- Medical personnel may need to order an x-ray to determine if magnets have been swallowed. Health professionals need to be aware that multiple magnetic pieces may appear as a single object in an x-ray.
- Parents and caregivers are advised to keep these magnets away from children.



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