

Safety Fact Sheet

Cot Bumpers and Pillows



What are cot bumpers and pillows?

Cot bumpers are pieces of padded fabric that attach to and line the inside of cots. Although they are designed to protect your baby from draughts and make the cot more attractive, cot bumpers pose significant hazards to babies.

Children's pillows come in a variety of shapes and sizes and may be filled with wool, feathers or synthetic material.

How may children be injured when using cot bumpers and pillows?

Choking

- Children may choke on strings, ribbons or buttons attached to cot bumpers.

Falls

- Children may stand on cot bumpers to help them climb over the edge of the cot. This may lead to a fall.

Suffocation

- Young children may suffocate if they roll face down onto a pillow or against a cot bumper.

How common are these injuries?

While it is known that injury and death have occurred as a result of cot bumpers and pillows, there are no published statistics available.

Is there a Law or an Australian Standard for cot bumpers and pillows?

There are no laws or Australian Standards relating to cot bumpers and pillows. Please keep in mind the safety reminders below when considering the purchase and use of cot bumpers and pillows for children.

Remember:

The Children's Hospital at Westmead recommends that you do not use cot bumpers with your child.

- If you decide to use cot bumpers, purchase bumpers that do not have strings, ribbons or buttons that may pose a choking hazard. Always remove cot bumpers before putting your child to bed.

The Children's Hospital at Westmead recommends that you do not use a pillow or U shaped pillows for children aged less than two years.

- When your child moves to an adult bed or begins using a pillow, select one that is firm and flat.
- The Children's Hospital at Westmead recommends that you check for products that have been recalled (www.recalls.gov.au) prior to buying or borrowing an item for use with your child.