

# Safety Fact Sheet

## Doors



### What is a door?

A door is a movable barrier that may be opened or closed restricting entry to a building, a room or a vehicle. Doors typically swing on hinges or slide along rails.

### How may a child be injured?

#### Entrapment

- Children may get their fingers/hands jammed or crushed between the door and door frame at either the hinged or closing side. A severe injury may lead to a child's finger being amputated by the door.

### How common are these injuries?

Injuries usually occur when a door is closed, opened or slammed shut and the hand/finger is either trapped between the door and the door frame at the hinged or closing side of the door.

Between July 2002 and June 2003, 475 children presented to Emergency Departments in Victoria due to hand or finger entrapments. A further 145 children were admitted to hospital with 72% of these children being less than four years of age. Of the children admitted to hospital, 54 were as a result of finger amputations.

### Is there a Law or an Australian Standard for door safety?

There are no laws or Australian Standards relating to door safety. Please keep in mind the safety reminders below when considering the safety of doors in your home.

### Remember:

- Install safety devices on the lock side of a door to prevent it closing and thereby trapping a child's hand or finger in the door. Devices available include rubber stoppers, triangular shaped wooden or plastic stoppers and finger guards.
- Install plastic door/ finger guards on hinge side of doors.
- Place strips of wood in open sliding doors to prevent them from being closed on fingers.
- Teach your children about the dangers of closing doors.