

Consumer Product Safety

The Problem for Consumers

Americans expect consumer products to be tested for safety, and for companies to stop selling potentially dangerous products as soon as a safety issue is identified. CR's September 2023 nationally representative survey of 2,089 U.S. adults found that **99% of Americans agree with the statement, "I expect the manufacturer of a product I buy for my home to design and test the product to be safe before selling it to customers."**¹

Unfortunately, companies don't always meet consumer expectations for safety, and hazardous products do make their way into homes, putting people at an unreasonable risk of injury or death. The most recent estimates show that **consumer products are linked to about 60,000 fatalities and 38 million medically-treated injuries in a year.**² Generally speaking, companies can introduce new products to the marketplace without prior review for safety risks. Most consumer products sold in the U.S. lack a mandatory safety standard that applies to them. Instead, many safety standards are voluntary, leaving it up to manufacturers to decide whether to comply.

The Policy Opportunity

The harms caused by hazardous consumer products can be reduced through strong, mandatory safety standards and effective enforcement. State policymakers—and, to some extent, those at the local level—have tools and authority they can use to address serious product safety concerns and help people keep their family safe at home. State governments can also hold companies accountable by enforcing federal product safety laws and regulations.

Already, several states and cities have taken important steps to improve product safety:

- **Crib Bumpers:** Padded crib bumpers put infants at risk of suffocation, and today they are banned under the federal Safe Sleep for Babies Act. Before that federal law took effect, states including Maryland, Ohio, and New York, as well as the city of Chicago, led the nation in acting to prohibit their sale.

¹ Consumer Reports, "September 2023 American Experiences Survey" (online at: article.images.consumerreports.org/image/upload/v1696262259/prod/content/dam/surveys/Consumer_Reports_AES_Toplines_September_2023.pdf) (Sept. 2023).

² CPSC, "Consumer Product-Related Injuries and Deaths in the United States: Estimated Injuries Occurring in 2024 and Estimated Deaths Occurring in 2023" (online at: www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/Death_and_Injury_Report_2024.pdf?VersionId=3ba34ViUH47vvK4kMOCzcAOOpDkNY9RE) (Apr. 2026).

- **Diaper Ingredient Transparency:** In 2026, CR has co-sponsored legislation in California (AB 1901) that would require children's diaper manufacturers to list intentionally added ingredients on packaging and online. A similar New York state law requiring disposable diapers to list ingredients on product packaging took effect in December 2025.
- **Decorative Tabletop Fire Pits:** In 2026, CR has endorsed legislation in California (SB 870) to prohibit the sale of tabletop fire pits that do not comply with a recognized voluntary safety standard. The bill comes after numerous deaths and serious burn injuries since 2019.
- **Lithium-Ion Battery and E-Mobility Safety:** In 2023, New York City passed an ordinance requiring e-mobility devices such as e-bikes and e-scooters, and their rechargeable batteries, to meet detailed UL safety standards. In 2024, New York state and California passed statewide laws with similar requirements.

Consumer Reports' Positions

- CR supports vigorous enforcement of product safety laws, by all levels of government, to reduce deaths and injuries associated with hazardous consumer products.
- CR supports state and local product safety measures and enhanced coordination between federal officials and state AGs to help the public stay safe from dangerous products, improve consumer recourse, and provide a model for future federal rules.

What's Next

- Continuously raising consumer and policymaker awareness of emerging product safety issues, and pursuing corrective action from companies.
- Continuing to support the introduction and passage of state legislation to ensure toxic-free personal care products (see our Safer Beauty and Personal Care one-pager).
- Reducing carbon monoxide (CO) hazards in people's homes through stronger standards.

For more information on our product safety work and to discuss opportunities for collaboration, contact Gabe Knight at gabe.knight@consumer.org and Oriene Shin at oriene.shin@consumer.org.

About Consumer Reports

Founded in 1936, CR is on a mission to create a fair and just marketplace for all. Widely known for our rigorous research and testing of products and services, we also survey millions of consumers each year, report extensively on marketplace issues, and advocate for consumer rights and protections around safety, digital rights, financial fairness, and sustainability. CR is independent and nonprofit.