



High-Powered Magnets: Innocent Looking But Dangerous

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Reports to CPSC about children swallowing high-powered magnets are on the rise. Although the scenarios differ by age group, from toddlers to teens, the danger is the same. When two or more magnets are swallowed, they can attract one another internally, resulting in serious injuries, such as small holes in the stomach and intestines, intestinal blockage, blood poisoning, and even death. When a magnet has to be removed surgically, it also often requires the repair of the child's damaged stomach and intestines.

CPSC offers the following tips to avoid magnet ingestion injuries, and advice on what to do if you suspect that your child has swallowed magnets:

- Keep small magnets and small pieces containing magnets away from young children who might swallow them.
- Look out for loose magnet pieces and regularly inspect toys and children's play areas for missing or dislodged magnets.
- If you suspect that magnets have been swallowed, seek medical attention immediately.
- Look for abdominal symptoms, such as abdominal pains, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.
- Keep in mind that in x-rays multiple magnetic pieces may appear as a single object.