

HAZARDS OF CORDED WINDOW COVERINGS: Why Safety Kits Are Not Enough

“The window covering industry’s safety kits are not keeping children safe,” said Linda Kaiser, founder of Parents for Window Blind Safety. “I estimate that at least 70 percent of all injury and death cases in the last few years involve window treatments with safety kits attached. Using cordless window treatments are the only safe alternative.”

Here are the main types of safety hazards:

Inner Cord

Even with a safety device correctly attached to separate the pull cords and to prevent the inner cord from coming out on a corded window treatment, the inner cord can pull out to form a loop, constituting a strangulation hazard. These loops can form at any location on the blinds where the pull cord runs through the blind slats. The inner cord can also be reached by pulling off the caps underneath the lifting bar. Many parents are not even aware that this is possible.



Knotted Cord (a)

Separated tassels can become tangled or knotted, the knot forming a dangerous loop causing a strangulation hazard. This can occur on any window blind or corded window treatment that has more than one cord with the safety tassels correctly attached. The safety tassels do not keep the cords from knotting again and again.



Knotted Cord (b)

Even when parents have placed window cords out of the reach of children, a child will eventually be able to reach up and untangle them. Children two years and older have died by reaching cords that are tied up and out of reach. Once the child unwinds the cords, they become twisted and tangled, even with safety kits attached, forming loops that can strangle a child.



Single Cord – Wrap Around

A single, unknotted cord that is at least 7½ inches long is a hazard when it becomes wrapped around a child. Children literally wrap the cord around their own necks. The child can gain access to the cord, pull the window treatment open and wrap it around the neck. Children have died from ONE cord wrapped around their neck. No matter how short the cords are cut, they will always be a long enough to be a strangulation hazard in the home.



Parents for Window Blind Safety and Sunburst Shutters recommend that no corded window treatments be used in the home and especially not in a child’s bedroom. The only solution is a completely cordless window treatment, such as plantation shutters.