

### TOP ACCIDENT PREVENTION TIPS

Preventing scalds and burns among children under 5:

- Keep matches and lighters out of the reach and sight of children.
- Always use a secure wall mounted fireguard.
- Have an escape route planned and practice it in case of fire.
- Never hold a hot drink and a child at the same time.
- Keep small children out of kitchen where possible.
- Always use rear hotplates and turn pan handles away from front of cooker.

Preventing falls amongst 65+ year olds:

- Take regular exercise to keep muscles strong and joints supple.
- Nail or tape down the edge of rugs to avoid slips and trips.
- Minimise bending/climbing, but if you must climb, use proper steps.
- Have a letter tray and rack fitted for deliveries.
- Get up from chairs/bed slowly.
- Have regular eye tests.
- If prescribed medication is making you feel dizzy, keep taking it, but consult your GP.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR ADVICE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT.**

### OTHER SERVICES PROVIDED BY YOUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

#### Health and Safety at Work:

District Councils and the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) share responsibility for securing health and safety at work standards in Northern Ireland.

#### Pollution Control:

District Councils are responsible for preventing and controlling air, soil and noise pollution.

#### Food Safety:

District Councils are responsible for ensuring the safety of food at all stages of production, from storage to distribution and sale.

#### Public Health, Housing & Regulatory Services:

District Councils are responsible for protecting the public by undertaking a range of duties relating to public health, housing and regulatory services (licensing, dog warden, litter warden and pest control).

#### Partnership Working:

District Councils work in partnership with the public, private, voluntary and community sectors to improve the health and well-being of our communities.

# Consumer Protection



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**BALLYMONEY**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

## General Information

# Consumer Protection

DELIVERING THE NEW PUBLIC HEALTH AGENDA

District Councils are responsible for protecting the consumer and others against the risk of injury or ill health from non-compliant goods manufactured, supplied or in use by providing advice and enforcing regulations. Consumer protection relates to almost all non-food products, for example upholstered furniture, bicycles, electrical goods, toys, hired goods, tyres, and second hand goods.

## WHAT DISTRICT COUNCIL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS DO TO PROTECT CONSUMERS

- ✓ Survey goods to check they are safe.
- ✓ Sample and test goods.
- ✓ Investigate Hazard Warnings and Complaints regarding unsafe goods.
- ✓ Advise businesses on how to ensure they supply safe products.
- ✓ Check Construction Products meet regulatory requirements.
- ✓ Promote home safety and provide advice to the general public on home safety and other consumer safety issues.
- ✓ Where necessary, take enforcement action to ensure manufacturers and suppliers of non-food products comply with the laws on consumer safety.

## CASE STUDY

A company was prosecuted and fined £3000. The company who imported toys which expanded excessively on contact with water (from 3 inches to 10 inches), causing potential choking hazards for children.

**FACT:** A recent survey of sixteen Accident & Emergency Departments in Northern Ireland found that 41.4% of accidents occur in the home (Pricewaterhouse Coopers, 2001). In Northern Ireland in 2002, there were a total of 76 deaths due to accidents in the home. Amongst children aged under five, burns and scalds were responsible for all 5 deaths recorded whilst falls were the main cause of death for adults, particularly amongst those aged 65 and over.

(source: General Registrar's Office).



inspiring listening supporting promoting solving problems Delivering the New Public Health Agenda