

## Blind and Curtain Cord Safety

In the light of recent tragedies reported in the media, there has been a drive to increase the awareness of the potential dangers of blind and curtains cords. All blinds have cords or chains of some kind as an intrinsic part of their functionality, and many curtains are hung on tracks with cords to make opening and closing them easier. All of which present a potential hazard to small children.

Modern day blinds and tracks now have safety features that come as standard, such as cord tidies, spring mechanism, wand controllers, easy break connectors etc. However, what about the blinds and tracks that you already have in place? Well, there are several cord tidies or safety catches available on the market, which are inexpensive and easy to fit. I found several on line and in high street stores. These then hold the cords in place or at tension so they are not hanging free for children to get hold of.

RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) and the BBSA (British Blind and Shutter Association) as well as other organisations, give a few simple, common sense suggestions to reduce the risk of blind cord accidents around the home.

~ Use shorter chains and cords and fix any cleats or hooks they are attached to higher and out of reach of exploring little hands

~ Use cord/chain tidies or chain break connectors

~Don't put beds, cots or anything climbable, like toy boxes, close to blinds and curtain cords.

~Periodically check the blinds and tracks to ensure no cords have come free or are damaged.

There are many things to think about when you have children around and mostly an awareness of any potential hazards is all that is needed, but these simple measures can bring peace of mind and give you one less thing to worry about!