



SAFETY ALERT

Blinds & Curtain Cords

Loose blind cords can be hazardous - Fix them out of reach so kids are out of danger



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BLIND & CURTAIN CORD HAZARDS

DIYonlineblinds.com.au is committed to child safety and would like to highlight to all our customers the risks associated with cord mechanisms on blinds & curtains.

Loose blind and curtain cords/chains - particularly those with loops - are dangerous. Young children can strangle themselves with looped curtain and blind cords. Sadly at least 12 young children have died as a result in Australia since the year 2000, including two in Victoria in August and September 2009.

Why are loose cords dangerous?

Children do not understand that cord/chain wrapped around their neck can tighten and strangle them in just a few minutes if they sit down, roll around or climb down to the floor. In the past children have died when the loop went over their head or they got tangled in loose cords while:

- sleeping in a cot or bed where cords are hanging
- playing near cords; or
- standing on a chair, sofa or bed to look out a window.

How to keep your children safe?

Take these 4 simple steps to ensure that blind and curtain cords/chains are out of reach of children.

1. Check your blind and curtain cords (Do this anywhere you are staying, including on holiday).

- Check for loose or looped cords that your child can reach from the floor or by climbing on furniture.
- Immediately tie cords out of reach and move away any furniture children might climb on to reach them.

2. Secure your cords out of reach.

- Use tensioning devices such as 'Cleats' or 'P-Clips' provided with all new blinds purchased from DIYonlineblinds.
- Use screws to fix each cleat or tensioning device in place that is out of reach of children.
- Never secure these devices with materials that may fail when a load is placed on them, such as double sided tape.

Note: If you cannot fix your unsafe cords and chains out of reach yourself, get a reliable tradesperson to do it for you. Also if you are renting your home, seek help from your landlord or agent.

3. Choose safe blinds.

All blinds sold by DIYonlineblinds have the following safety features:

- Comply with the national mandatory standard
- Have warning labels to remind you of dangers to children
- Provide a way to secure cords/chains so there are no loops or strands that children can reach; or
- Operate without exposed cords/chains.

4. Keep children away from all cords/chains.

- Move anything a young child can sit in, stand or climb on (like cots, highchairs, beds, sofas, tables, chairs and bookshelves) away from cords/chains - even those tied around a cleat as your child may be able to untie them.
- Do not let children play near cords/chains they can reach.
- Never leave children alone in a room with cords/chains they can reach.

WARNING IMPORTANT FOR CHILD SAFETY - INSTALLING THE CORD CLEAT

Young children can strangle in the look of pull cords, chain and bead cords, and cords that run through window coverings. They can also wrap cords around their necks. To avoid strangulation, keep cords out of the reach of young children. Also,

1. Install safety devices that remove the cord look or reduce access to cords, and
2. Move cots and furniture away from window covering cords.

The tension device reduces the hazards of strangulation or entanglement by limited access to the cord or bead chain. Anchor the device with the cord or bead chain to the wall of floor so young children cannot pull the cord or bead chain around their necks. Always keep cords out of the reach of young children.

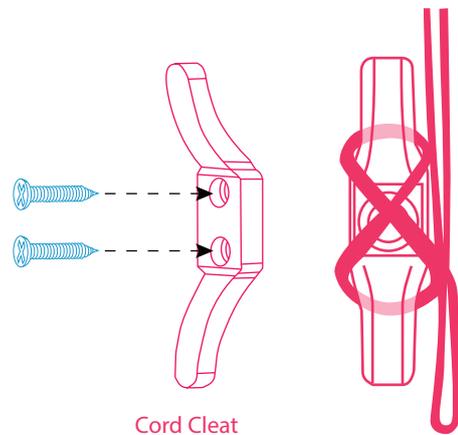
WARNING REGARDING CLEATS: Cleats should be mounted at a sufficient height, so as to keep cords out of reach of young children. Cords must be fully wrapped around the cleat at all times. Always keep out of the reach of young children.

WARNING FOR CORD RELEASE DEVICE: This cord release device reduces the strangulation hazard in the pull cord by removing the permanent loop. The cords should not be tied together and the cords should not be twisted around each other when the device is assembled. This device will not prevent strangulation if young children wrap pull cords around their necks. Always keep cords out of reach of young children.

Installing The Cord Cleat

Cord cleats must be installed to comply with Child Safety Regulations and more importantly keep kids safe from possible strangulation, for any blind that is operated by cords.

- a) The cleats must be installed at least 1600mm above floor level, because a child is capable of unwinding a cord from a cleat.
- b) Fasten the cleats to the wall using the screws provided. Do not use tape or glue.
- b) The cord must not form a loop longer than 220mm, and should be wound entirely around the cleat.



Installing The P Clip

P Clip's must be installed to comply with Child Safety Regulations and more importantly keep kids safe from possible strangulation, for any blind that involves chains or cords that form a loop.

- a) The cleats must be installed at least 1600mm above floor level, because a child is capable of unwinding a cord from a cleat.
- b) Fasten the cleats to the wall using the screws provided. Do not use tape or glue.
- b) The cord must not form a loop longer than 220mm, and should be wound entirely around the cleat.

