

Bunk beds are high and children can easily fall off the top or get themselves caught in the bed's structure

For product safety advice contact:

Department of Consumer and Employment Protection
Consumer Protection Advice Line 1300 30 40 54
(for the cost of a local call statewide)
8.30am - 5.00pm weekdays

Department of Consumer and Employment Protection
Forrest Centre
219 St Georges Terrace
Perth, Western Australia 6000

Locked Bag 14, Cloisters Square, Western Australia 6850

Administration: (08) 9282 0777

Fax: (08) 9282 0850

National Relay Service: 13 36 77

Website: www.docep.wa.gov.au

Email: consumer@docep.wa.gov.au

Great Southern	(08) 9842 8366
South-West	(08) 9722 2888
Mid-West	(08) 9964 5644
Goldfields/Esperance	(08) 9021 5966
North-West	(08) 9185 0900
Kimberley	(08) 9169 2811

DP099867 / Jan 08 / 5000



Information including advice ("information") provided in this brochure is given in good faith and solely on the basis that you are responsible for making your own assessment of it and that you obtain your own independent advice with respect to matters relevant to you regarding the safe use of bunk beds. The information should not be construed to waive any legal obligations of entities including manufacturers, wholesalers or retailers of bunk beds.

The State of Western Australia and its servants expressly disclaim any liability and responsibility for the information contained in this brochure. You/ each reader/ each person who relies on the information waives and releases the State of Western Australia and its servants to the full extent permitted by law from any and all claims relating to the use of the information. In no event shall the State of Western Australia and its servants be liable for any injury, loss or damage resulting from the use of information. The State of Western Australia and its servants do not accept liability for any injury, loss or damage incurred by reliance on the information.

This publication may not be reproduced or copied, except with the express permission of the Department of Consumer and Employment Protection.

bunk beds

SAFETY FOR KIDS

in the home





Although bunk beds look great in children's rooms and save space, they can be dangerous and have caused numerous injuries to children.



Remember, bunk beds are high and children can easily fall off the top or get themselves caught in the bed's structure. This can cause serious injury or even death.

The simple fact is that children play on bunk beds because they're different and present a climbing opportunity. Keep in mind that any bed with a base (the platform on which the mattress rests) more than 800mm off the ground can be a risk to your child's safety.

If you decide to use bunk beds in your home, there are certain hazards you should look for and precautions you should take.

Hazards to look for

- Make sure there are no gaps between 95mm and 230mm in the structure of the bed. This will stop children from getting their heads stuck in spaces of this size.
- The top bunk should have guardrails at least 160mm high above the top of the mattress on all sides to stop children rolling out of the bed.
- Make sure nothing on the bed's structure sticks out over 5mm. This prevents clothes being snagged and the potential for strangulation.
- Check that all pipe ends are plugged on bunk beds that are made from tubular steel.
- Make sure any nuts and bolts are flush and smooth.
- There shouldn't be any rough or sharp edges on the bed.
- Check that ladders are firmly fixed and stable.
- Any bunk bed sold in Western Australia after November 2002 must comply with the mandatory safety standard based on AS/NZS 4220.

Safety tips

Bunk bed safety tips

- Never allow a child younger than nine on the top bunk.
- Don't let your children use bunk beds as a play area or climbing frame.
- Never place a bunk bed near a window. Blind cords can cause strangulation. Glass breakage can cause fatal cuts.
- Make sure the top bunk is at least two metres from any ceiling fans and other overhead hazards.
- Always check for wear and tear. Any repairs that are necessary should be done immediately.
- Regularly check that nuts and bolts are tight.

Children play on bunk beds because they're different and present a climbing opportunity.