Blind cords and chains can kill children

Looped blind cords and chains are dangerous. They can strangle a child, and have led to the deaths of children.

Act now to ensure that all cords and chains are kept securely out of the reach of babies and children.

For further safety advice for your area please contact:
- Staffordshire Trading Standards on 08453 303 313
- Stoke-on-Trent Trading Standards on 01782 234 234

Safeguarding children….

it’s everyone’s business
Window Blind Cord Safety Advice

You can take a number of practical and simple precautions to significantly reduce the risk.

Take action now to secure any looped cords or chains within your home by following this advice and using one of the many safety devices available for you to buy. This safety advice also applies to all organisations and community buildings where parents, carers or workers with babies and young children live or visit.

Here are a few examples of the devices available:

- **Cleat**
  This can be securely fixed to an adjacent wall, out of the reach of young children. Remember to always wrap the cord tightly around the cleat after every time you use the blind.

- **Cord/Chain Tensioner or Tidy**
  The following devices should be secured to an adjacent wall and the cord/chains are held permanently taut by the device.

- **Chain-break connector**
  These will break apart when excessive force is applied to the operating chain or cord.

When choosing new blinds for homes or places where children live or visit always look for a blind that does not contain cords or chains, has concealed cords or chains, or has an in built safety system.

Window or door blind cords and chains can pose a real risk for babies and children. Three young children have already tragically died in Staffordshire in the last eight years as a result of blind cord strangulation and many more children have died or been seriously injured across the UK.

**PLEASE ACT NOW** to help to keep your children safe and prevent any further tragedies.

Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Local Safeguarding Children Boards;
‘working together to help you to keep your children safe’.

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Further guidance & advice for parents, carers & professionals is now available. Please visit: www.staffsscb.org.uk/blindcords or www.safeguardingchildren.stoke.gov.uk for more information on how you can keep your child safe from blind cord and chain dangers.

Important guidance on the responsibilities of manufacturers and suppliers of blinds is also available to view at the above web addresses.