

Child safety: baby sleep bags

Our role

The CCPC is responsible for making sure that a range of consumer products sold in Ireland meet required safety standards. When a safety issue is identified, we take action to protect consumers and make sure, where necessary, that dangerous products are recalled from the market. Following the recall of a number of baby sleep bags in Ireland, the CCPC has developed consumer guidance to highlight potential safety risks associated with these products.

What is a baby sleep bag?

A baby sleep bag is a wearable blanket, designed to keep a baby at a comfortable and safe temperature. It is secured at the shoulders, ensuring a baby's head remains uncovered. The purpose of a baby sleep bag is to provide enough warmth without the need for any additional bedding. They are widely available in a variety of different styles and colours.



What are the safety risks?

There are a number of potentially serious risks associated with some baby sleep bag products. Before you buy, remember to:

- Always read all labelling and follow the warnings and instructions carefully.

- Make sure your child's head cannot pass through the neck opening, once fastened. If a neck opening is too large, a child could slip inside the sleep bag and be at risk of suffocation.
- Check for detachable small parts (e.g. buttons) to avoid the risk of choking. Check for strings, cords, ties or ribbons, as these pose strangulation risks.
- Check the 'Safety Gate' alerts page at ec.europa.eu for recently recalled baby sleep bags, or details of any safety issues that have been raised.

Safety tips for use

- ✓ Always buy from a reputable retailer and avoid any products which appear to be poorly manufactured.
- ✓ Make sure to buy a sleep bag that's suitable for your baby. Check its age range, height and that the neck opening isn't too large for your baby's head to slip through.
- ✓ Look for a sleep bag with safe fastenings (e.g. zippers or poppers) with a smooth seam. Avoid button or Velcro fastenings.
- ✓ A sleep bag should not be used where an infant can climb out of its cot.
- ✓ Always check the warnings and follow the instructions carefully.

If you suspect a baby sleep bag is unsafe:

Contact the manufacturer or retailer with details of any faults or issues.

Report your product safety concerns to the CCPC via our helpline: 01 402 5555.