

# Children's Nightwear Safety



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Many Australian children are admitted to hospital after being burned when their nightclothes catch on fire. Flimsy, loose-fitting girls' nighties are often involved.

A number of prevention measures, including changes to the Australian Standard for warning labels to be attached to nightwear, have led to a major reduction in injuries.

Children's nightwear must comply with Australian Standard AS 1249:2003 *Children's nightwear and limited daywear having reduced fire hazard*. This Standard specifies design, performance and labelling requirements for four categories of children's nightwear, together with some garments commonly worn both day and night.

Although no nightwear is 100% fire proof, children's nightwear that does not comply with the mandatory standard increases the risk of fire hazards. This means that children wearing them are at higher risk of severe burns and death if the nightwear catches fire.

Nightwear for children includes the following items:

- Pyjamas
- Pyjama-style over-garments
- Nightdresses
- Nightshirts
- Dressing gowns
- Bathrobes
- Infant sleep bags
- Other items styled and recognised as nightwear e.g. all-in-ones
- loose boxer shorts

## Fire Warning Labels

Garments must be flammability tested before being labelled. Garments are categorised according to fabric type and burning behaviour.

### Low Fire Danger

Garments with this label have been approved as slow burning.

This means they are made from material that is difficult to ignite such as wool. Synthetic fibres such as nylon are a somewhat lower risk; however these fibres will melt and stick to the burned skin. Low fire danger garments are made in styles that should reduce fire danger, such as a close-fitting tracksuit style. They must pass stringent restrictions on trimmings to limit the risk of flames spreading.



### High Fire Danger

Although garments with this label pass Australian Standards, they present a higher fire risk. They are not subject to restrictions on styling or trims and are made with flammable fabric.



**Avoid buying or using children's nightgowns made from**

**100% Chenille or**

**100% Cotton Flannelette**

**These materials are highly**

**FLAMMABLE**

**child safety is no accident**

## Safe Practices

- Give careful thought to any nightwear you buy for children to keep them safer if there is a fire.
- Read labels carefully and avoid garments with “WARNING: HIGH FIRE DANGER: KEEP AWAY FROM FIRE”
- Purchase nightwear labelled “LOW FIRE DANGER”. Even if you choose garments with a low fire danger label these can still be flammable in some situations
- Choose close-fitting nightwear with cuffs around the legs and arms. The more loose fitting the flammable clothing is, the higher the risk of burns if it catches fire.
- If making your own children’s nightwear, look for safety warnings on commercial patterns and fabrics.
- NEVER let children get too close to a fire or heater.



### For more information visit:

Product Safety Australia [productsafety.gov.au](http://productsafety.gov.au)  
NSW Fair Trading [fairtrading.nsw.gov.au](http://fairtrading.nsw.gov.au)

Contact your local fire authority for information on how to:

- install smoke detectors
- test and change their batteries regularly
- prevent fires around the home
- provide first aid for burns and scalds

## Fireguards

To prevent your child from receiving burns from home heating devices, or clothes catching fire, *Kidsafe NSW* recommends that all heating devices and especially fireplaces are guarded.

When building or purchasing a fireguard, consider the following points:

The fireguard needs to be stable, non-moveable and not able to fall on a child.

It should be securely attached to the wall behind the heat source.

The guard should be far enough away to prevent a child reaching over or through it to touch the heat source.

The fireguard should be far enough away from the heat source to be cool to touch - at least 150mm.

It should be high enough to prevent a child reaching, leaning or falling over it - at least 700mm.

The gaps or perforations in the guard should not be able to trap a child’s head or fingers. Large gaps should be no greater than 90mm and not less than 50mm to avoid trapping head and hands. Small gaps should be less than 5mm to avoid trapping fingers.

If the fireguard has a door or gateway to allow adult access to the heat source, ensure that this can be and is always securely locked.

The guard should not be made of material with rough edges that could cut or pierce a child’s skin.



KIDSAFE NEW SOUTH WALES Inc.

P: 02 9845 0890 F: 02 9845 0895  
E: [kidsafe@chw.edu.au](mailto:kidsafe@chw.edu.au)

[kidsafensw.org](http://kidsafensw.org)

  
Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia