

# Global Awareness-raising Campaign on Window Covering Cord Safety

23-30 June 2016

#SafeWindowCoverings



## SAFETY ALERT



Unsafe window covering cords and young children can become a deadly mix.

Every year, accidents involving window covering cords are reported, some with fatal consequences.

Incidents have involved children up to 9 years of age but most often children under the age of 3 were concerned.

Children can be strangled if they become entangled in the cord forming a loop around their neck

### WHAT MAY HAPPEN

#### Strangulation

Unconsciousness within 15 seconds

Neurological damage from oxygen deprivation

Death in two or three minutes



# SAFETY MESSAGES FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

## BEWARE!



Millions of unsafe window coverings are still in use in European homes.



Strangulation has occurred most often in children's bedrooms and in living rooms but can occur anywhere where an unsafe corded window covering is installed.



Strangulation happens quickly and silently.

## DO NOT EXPOSE CHILDREN TO HAZARDOUS LOOPS CHECK REGULARLY



Examine all shades and blinds for accessible cords at the front, side and back. Do this at home and when visiting (e.g. relatives' homes, holiday dwellings)



Check regularly that cords are out of reach of young children and cannot form hazardous loops.



Do not place cots, beds and furniture close to windows because children may climb on them and gain access to window covering cords.

## USE SAFE PRODUCTS

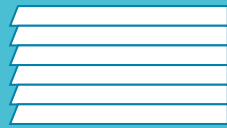
In houses with young children:



Install window coverings that are either cordless or with inaccessible cords.



Use window coverings fitted with safety devices to keep cords out of reach of young children.



Tie the cords up or use one of the many safety devices available (such as cleats, cord tidies, clips or ties)



Make sure that your blinds comply with the European standards for internal window blinds EN 13120:2009 + A1:2014, EN 16433:2014, EN 16434:2014

## OECD GLOBAL CAMPAIGN

Regulators around the world work together to raise consumers' awareness on window covering cord safety

