

Observe National Window Covering Safety Month

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the Window Covering Safety Council (WCSC) have announced October as the fourth annual National Window Covering Safety Month. The month-long, national campaign is designed to increase consumer awareness of window-cord safety and to urge parents with young children to replace or retrofit pre-2001 corded blinds, shades and draperies with today's safer products.

According to information compiled by the CPSC, since 1990 approximately 200 infants and young children have died from accidentally strangling in window cords. Because millions of older corded window coverings still exist in homes, the CPSC, WCSC,

and retailers will be alerting parents to the potential dangers of window cords throughout the month.

Since 1995, the WCSC has operated a national window-cord safety information and education program. The Council also provides consumers with free retrofit tassels, tie-downs and cord stops for older window coverings. Free retrofit devices can be ordered through WCSC's Web site at www.windowcoverings.org, or its toll-free phone line at 1-800-506-4636.

WCSC is a coalition of major U.S. manufacturers, importers and retailers of window coverings that promote window-cord safety and provides free retrofit kits to consumers.

"WCSC is urging parents and



caregivers to replace outdated window coverings in their home with today's safer alternatives, such as cordless designs," says Peter Rush, executive director of the Window Covering Safety Council. "Each year, with the help of the CPSC, we continue to raise awareness of this important issue." **HP**