

**Division of Consumer Protection**  
Advocating for and Empowering New York Consumers

Consumer Assistance Hotline: 1-800-697-1220 / [www.dos.ny.gov](http://www.dos.ny.gov)

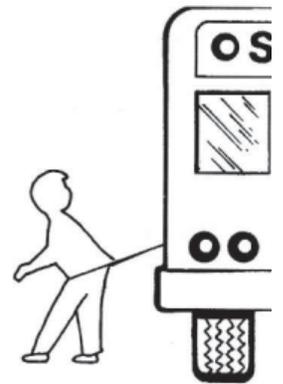
**Tip Sheet:**

# DRAWSTRINGS



Hood and neck drawstrings can become caught on many common items.

**Drawstrings on children's garments at the neck and waist are a safety hazard. They can catch on cribs, playground equipment, and vehicle doors, resulting in injuries including strangulation. To address this hazard, New York has adopted statutory protections on the use of drawstrings in children's clothing.**



Waist drawstrings can be caught in a bus or car door.

Under New York State law, the following must be adhered to by manufacturers, retailers and distributors:

## DRAWSTRINGS AT THE NECK

- It is illegal to sell any item of children's clothing up to and including size 12 with a drawstring at the neck.
- Other methods of closure at the neck are permissible. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has issued guidelines regarding the use of alternative closure methods. Recommendations include snaps, hook and loop fasteners, buttons or elastic.



SNAPS



HOOK AND  
LOOP



BUTTONS



ELASTIC  
LOOP

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### DRAWSTRINGS AT THE WAIST

Drawstrings are permissible at the top of a bottom garment (i.e., at the waist of sweatpants), or at the bottom of an upper garment (i.e., at the waist of a jacket) in children's clothing sized from 2T to 16 if the following conditions are met:

- The drawstring is attached to the garment at its midpoint, so it cannot be fully pulled to one side, thus making it a hazard.
- The ends of the drawstrings measure no longer than three inches from the point where the drawstring exits the garment to the tip of the drawstring measured while the garment is expanded to its fullest width.
- No toggles, knots, or attachments can be placed at the ends of the drawstrings other than a standard metal or plastic sheath covering on the ends used to prevent fraying.



Waist drawstrings should measure no more than three inches from where the strings extend out from the garment.

No toggles, knots or attachments on the ends of the drawstrings.

For more information and for the latest consumer product recalls, check the Division of Consumer Protection web site at [www.dos.ny.gov/consumerprotection](http://www.dos.ny.gov/consumerprotection).