

# NEWSLETTER

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## Quiz Korner - Garage Sales

Take this quiz before having or going to a garage sale this summer.

### Questions

1. Whose responsibility is it to ensure that the products at garage sales meet current Canadian safety requirements?
  - a. The seller
  - b. The buyer
  - c. Both the seller and buyer
  - d. No one
2. Cribs are a common item sold at garage sales that have a high potential hazard risk. *True or False*
3. If you are caught selling items that fail to meet safety standards you can be held responsible if someone is injured due to a product you sold to them. *True or False*
4. Which of the following items are illegal to sell at garage sales in Canada? (more than one answer)
  - a. Hockey helmets
  - b. Lawn darts
  - c. Baby walkers
  - d. Water bottles
5. The reselling of any type of helmet is acceptable. *True or False*

### Answers

1. **C.** Health Canada encourages sellers and buyers of second-hand products to stay informed about product recalls, advisories and important regulatory changes. However, it has been found that, products offered at garage sales often do not meet current requirements. Therefore, the buyer must decide if the cost-savings are worth the potential risk associated with purchasing second-hand consumer products.
2. **True.** You must use caution before buying a crib at any garage sale. Cribs should not be used if they were manufactured before 1986, if any parts are loose or missing, or if there are any signs of damage. Cribs should be accompanied by proper assembly instructions and should not be used if they cannot be assembled as per the instructions.
3. **True.** Even with informal transactions such as those at garage sales, it is illegal to sell hazardous or unsafe items. The Hazardous Products Act provides for steep fines and prison sentences.
4. **B and C.** Baby walkers have been illegal to sell in Canada since April 2004. Anyone with a baby walker is advised to destroy and discard it so that it cannot be used.  
It is illegal to sell lawn darts with elongated tips in Canada.  
Hockey helmets can be sold at garage sales. Although, they must not be sold if previously subjected to major impact, if older than five years, if showing visible signs of damage, or if parts are missing. Be cautious when buying used sports equipment.
5. **False.** Helmets (other than hockey helmets), such as bicycle and in-line skating helmets and equestrian riding helmets, are designed to protect the head against a single impact. It is not recommended to resell these products.

To find out if a product has been recalled by the manufacturer, and for information on corrective action, please contact the manufacturer or check Health Canada's Consumer Product Recall database. Items you should be cautious of buying or selling include: baby gates, car seats, children's jewelry, children's sleepwear, cosmetics, cribs, garden torches, hockey helmets and face protectors, playpens, strollers, toys (toys with magnets), children's clothing with drawstrings, infant bath seats, and window blinds.

Info from Canada Safety Council July 2010

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