

# Healthy Kids | Agency renews warning on Bumbo Baby Seat

## Product can cause head injuries

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Bumbo Baby Seats could leave your baby with a bump on the head, or maybe even a skull fracture.

That's the word from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, which recently issued a renewed warning not to use the seats — some of which were recalled in 2007 — on elevated surfaces.

About 3.85 million of the molded seats have been sold in the United States, but infants as young as 3 months old can fall or escape from them “by arching backward, leaning forward or sideways, or rocking,” according to the

advisory.

The notice — issued jointly with the manufacturer, Bumbo International Trust of South Africa — tells parents not to place the seats on elevated surfaces, such as tables, countertops and chairs, citing several injuries.

Kids also have been hurt by falling out of seats used on the ground, the advisory notes.

Parents who choose to put their kids in Bumbo seats should watch their kids closely, said Erika Janes, coordinator of Safe Kids Louisville and Jefferson County, an injury prevention group led by Kosair Children's Hospital.

“This (product) is something that was developed for children that are barely starting to sit up with their heads unsupported,” said Janes, a registered nurse. “These children in no way need to be left alone.”

Written by **Darla Carter**

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The recall four years ago required that fall-prevention warnings be


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placed on the seats to highlight the risk of using the seats up high.

Since then, there have been at least 45 cases of infants falling out of Bumbo seats from such positions, according to the recent advisory. Nearly 20 of those infants sustained skull fractures.

At the time of the 2007 recall, the CPSC was aware of 28 falls, the advisory notes.

"I'm concerned that people continue to put (seats) on elevated areas," Janes said. Not only could a child wiggle out of it, another person could "bump into it, and just send the child flying, and skull fractures and head injuries can be really serious and lifelong for an infant."

If the seats are going to be used at all, it should be on the floor, she said.

Joyce Davis, president of the child-advocacy group Keeping Babies Safe, made similar comments.

"Juvenile products account for a large number of emergency department treated injuries and parents should only use this product on the floor with a parent nearby," she said in an email.

But there have been at least 50 reports of infants falling or maneuvering out of the seats while they were being used on the floor or at unknown elevations, according to the advisory. Injuries included two reported skull fractures and a concussion that occurred when the kids struck their heads on hard flooring or a toy.

Product warnings note that the seat may not prevent children from coming out of the chair "in the event of vigorous movement," according to the CPSC advisory.

**Reporter Darla Carter can be reached at (502) 582-7068.**

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