

Window Covering Safety Council

www.windowcoverings.org

Basic cord safety

Children and window cords don't mix. When window cords are accessible to small children, these seemingly harmless products may become strangulation hazards.

This is especially important with older window coverings that may not meet the latest national standard for window cord safety.

The Window Covering Safety Council is urging parents and caregivers to make the right choice and only use cordless window products in young children's bedrooms and sleeping areas. Owners and renters should replace all window coverings in the home made before 2001 with today's safer products.

And remember to always follow these basic window-cord safety rules:



Install only cordless window coverings in young children's bedrooms and sleeping areas. Replace window blinds, corded shades and draperies manufactured before 2001 with today's safer products.



Move all cribs, beds, furniture and toys away from windows and window cords, preferably to another wall.



Keep all window pull cords and inner lift cords out of the reach of children. Make sure that tasseled pull cords are short and continuous-loop cords are permanently anchored to the floor or wall. Make sure cord stops are properly installed and adjusted to limit movement of inner lift cords.



Lock cords into position whenever horizontal blinds or shades are lowered, including when they come to rest on a windowsill.

How to retrofit

Install only cordless window coverings in young children's bedrooms and sleeping areas.

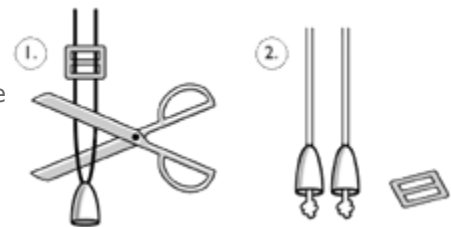
Owners and renters should replace all other window coverings in the home made before 2001 with today's safer products.

However, if you prefer to keep your older window treatments, the following instructions will help you retrofit them. You can also watch [Video Examples](#) of Retrofit Steps and order free retrofit kits at www.windowcoverings.org

ELIMINATE LOOPED PULL CORDS

(pre-1995 miniblinds and pleated shades)

1. Cut the looped pull cord above the tassel, and remove equalizer buckle (if any).
2. Insert cord through tassel and tie cord ends to secure the tassel.



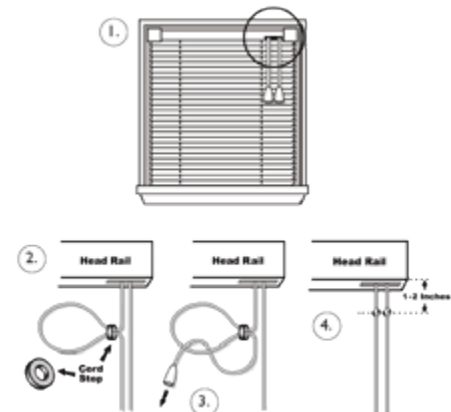
INSTALL CORD STOPS

(all pre-2001 horizontal blinds and corded shades)

1. Lower the blind to its proper length and lock cords into position at head rail.

For each pull cord:

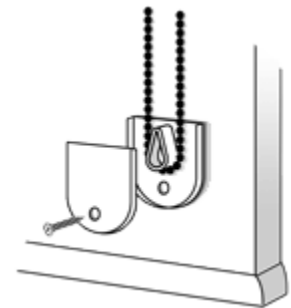
2. Pinch together a portion of the pull cord to create a loop near the head rail, then slide the cord stop over the loop end.
3. Slip the free end of the pull cord through the loop to loosely knot the cord stop onto the pull cord.
4. Tighten the knot to secure the cord stop one to two inches below the head rail to limit movement of inner lift cords.



INSTALL TIE-DOWN DEVICES

(pre-1997 vertical blinds and draperies)

1. Insert cord or chain into tie-down device.
2. Attach the tie-down device to the floor or wall so that the cord is fully extended and securely fastened.



REPAIR ROMAN SHADES

[Click](#) to view instructions.

REPAIR ROLL-UP BLINDS

[Click](#) to view instructions.

Safety & Design Tips

Children's Rooms

Parents and parents-to-be have a million things on their minds when it comes to raising their children. But every parent needs to be aware of child safety, and this begins in the home.

Children's rooms are the best place to start. According to child-safety experts, the typical focal points for decorating a child's room -- windows, cribs and bedding -- also hold the greatest potential danger to a child's safety.

To make sure your child's room is a safe one, consider the following tips:

- **Window Areas:** Never place a crib, playpen, bed or any type of low-standing furniture near a window. In exploring their surroundings, young children can accidentally fall through an open window or window screen, or become tragically entangled in a nearby window cord. Whenever possible, place cribs and furniture on a non-windowed wall.

The Window Covering Safety Council recommends you make the right choice and only use cordless window products in young children's bedrooms and play areas. Owners and renters should replace all window coverings in the home made before 2001 with today's safer products.

However, if you wish to keep your older window coverings (i.e., purchased before 2001), visit our [How To Retrofit](#) section for instructions on how to retrofit these products.

- **Cribs:** Make sure the crib you are using is sturdy, properly installed and in compliance with the latest safety standards. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) cautions that crib mattresses should fit snugly, headboards and footboards should be without decorative cutouts, and corner-post extensions should be eliminated.

In addition, safety guidelines now require that all cribs have slats that are spaced no more than 2 3/8 inches apart. Heirloom cribs and hand-me-downs may not meet these safety guidelines, or may have lead-based paint, dangerously loose parts or missing pieces. If in doubt, consider purchasing a new crib. Remember to place the crib on a non-windowed wall.

Once a child is able to push up on his hands or knees, or reaches 5 months of age, the CPSC recommends removing any crib toys strung across the crib or playpen to avoid accidental strangulation.

- **Bedding:** Fashionable crib comforters, bumpers, sheets and other bedding items are commonplace in today's nursery decorating schemes. As adorable as these bedding items may be, safety experts caution parents not to place fluffy soft comforters or pillows in the crib where they might smother a baby. A safe yet colorful alternative is to hang the comforter on the wall as textile art.
- **Other room features:** Be sure to cover all electrical outlets. Consider purchasing a spring-loaded lid-support device for toy chests to prevent the lid from falling on a child's neck or from closing and trapping a child playing inside the chest. Changing tables should have safety straps. Baby powder, diaper ointment, and similar baby-care products should be accessible to the caregiver, but out of the child's reach.

Product Innovations

When it comes to choosing window treatments most consumers consider color, style, and even privacy. If young children are around the home, then cord control should be another important factor in selecting your window treatments.

Although today's window fashions come with built-in cord-safety features, the Window Covering Safety Council believes cordless window coverings are the best choice for use in children's bedrooms and any area of the home where children spend time playing.

In fact, cordless designs are rapidly gaining favor with consumers and decorators because of their "clean" look and streamlined design. Most traditionally corded window fashions are available in "cordless" styles through the use of spring-loaded mechanisms, battery- or motor-operated lift controls, or simple wand pulls. When combined with the scores of new fashion looks in today's window coverings, consumers can pick from a wide choice of high-style cordless designs.

Some of the most popular cordless window treatments making their way into America's homes are displayed here: www.windowcoverings.org/safety_design_tips.html