

## CHILDREN'S NIGHTWEAR & FIRE SAFETY



In 1979 a staggering 300 Australian children were admitted to hospital after being burned when nightclothes caught fire. Flimsy, loose-fitting girls' nighties were often involved. These would swirl into contact with flames or hot surfaces and burn quickly. A number of prevention efforts, including a change to the Australian Standard for warning labels, have led to a major reduction in injuries.

**Did you know?**  
**It is illegal in Australia to  
sell size 0-14 children's  
nightgowns made from  
100% Chenille  
Or  
100% Cotton Flannelette**

This doesn't apply to flannelette pyjamas which are legal and considered safe.

Children's nightwear and a limited amount of daywear must now comply with Australian Standard AS/NZS 1249:1999 which reduces the fire hazard of clothing.

### Fire Warning Labels

Items covered in the mandatory labelling requirements include styled and recognised nightwear garments such as pyjamas, pyjama-style overgarments, nightdresses, nightshirts, dressing gowns, bathrobes, infant sleepbags and boxer shorts of a loose style.

Garments must be flammability tested before being labelled. Garments are categorised according to fabric type and burning behaviour.

#### Low Fire Danger

Garments made with this label are made to be slow burning:

#### LOW FIRE DANGER

- Made from material that is difficult to ignite, such as wool, and some nylon and polyester.
- Styled to reduce fire danger (such as close-fitting tracksuit styles).
- Pass stringent restrictions on trim sizing, which limits the risk of flames spreading.

#### High Fire Danger

Garments with the following label pass Australian Standards, but present a higher fire risk. They are not subject to restrictions on styling or trims, and are made with a combination of flammable fabrics.

**child safety is no accident**

**WARNING  
HIGH FIRE DANGER  
KEEP AWAY FROM  
FIRE**



- Clothing with a combination of flammable fabrics such as some cotton, chenille and cotton flannelette.
- Long, flowing style.
- Size and pattern of trim more likely to spread flames.

## Safe Practice

Give careful thought to what nightwear you buy for your children, especially if they are likely to come in contact with an open fire, slow combustion fire or stove.

## Fireguards



To prevent your child from receiving burns from home heating devices, or clothes catching fire, Kidsafe recommends that all heating devices and especially fireplaces be guarded.

When building or purchasing a fireguard, consider the following points:

- The fireguard needs to be stable, non-moveable and not able to fall on a child.

- It should be securely attached to the wall behind the heat source.
- The fireguard should be far enough away from the heat source to be cool to touch – minimum 150mm
- It should be high enough to prevent a child reaching, leaning or falling over it – a minimum of 700mm
- The guard should be far enough away to prevent a child reaching over or through it to touch the heat source.
- The gaps or perforations in the guard should not be able to trap a child's head or fingers. Large gaps should be no greater than 85mm and not less than 50mm to avoid trapping head and hands. Small gaps should be less than 6mm to avoid trapping fingers.
- If the fireguard has a door or gateway to allow adult access to the heat source, ensure that this can be securely locked.
- The guard should not be made of material with rough edges that could cut or pierce a child's skin.



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