Baby Slings and Carriers

Safety Tips

- Never leave a baby alone in a carrier or sling when it is not being worn by the adult.
- Check for ripped seams and damaged hardware before each use.
- Be careful when placing the baby in, or taking the baby out, of the carrier or sling. Have someone help you if needed.
- Make sure the baby's face is not pressed into the fabric of the carrier or sling, your body, or bulky clothing.
- If the baby is lying on its back in a sling, check that their chin is not pressed into their chest.
- Hold onto the baby when bending over so the baby does not fall out of the carrier or sling.
- Do not use a carrier or sling during activities that could lead to injury, such as cooking, cycling, or drinking hot beverages.

The use of baby carriers and slings (worn by the caregiver) has led to serious injuries of babies in Canada. Most injuries happen when the baby falls from a sling or carrier. This can happen when the caregiver trips and falls, when the product breaks, or when the baby slips over the side or through the leg openings.

Slings that use knots or rings to hold the two ends of fabric together pose potential safety risks:

- Knots can come loose;
- Fabric can slip through the rings; or,
- Rings can break.

When buying a baby carrier or sling, choose a model that:

- Comes with detailed and easy to understand instructions. Follow them carefully, and keep for future use by you or anyone else using the product.
- Is the appropriate size for the adult carrying the baby. If more than one adult will be using the carrier or sling, choose one that will fit each caregiver properly. You may need more than one size.
- Is the right fit for the baby. Adjust properly for each use.

Contact the manufacturer to check for recalls.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
contact Product Safety, Health Canada

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