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Competition &  
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Commission

**SAFETY ALERT**

# Bunk beds

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# SAFETY HAZARD

## Bunk beds

Bunk beds are not suitable for children under the age of nine. The greatest risk of injury in a bunk bed occurs up until this age. Dangers include falling from the top bunk or trapping small heads and limbs, often leading to serious or even fatal injuries.

**Never** let children use bunk beds as a play area. Many injuries occur when children fall from the top bunk while playing.



### Before you buy

- ✔ Select a bunk bed that complies with the mandatory safety standard based on the Australian Standard for bunk beds AS/NZS 4220. Look for a label or sticker that says the bunk bed complies with the mandatory standard. If there isn't one, ask the retailer. If the retailer cannot verify that it complies, do not buy it.
- ✔ Check that there are no gaps sized 95 mm to 230 mm in any part of the bed, including guardrails, to prevent children trapping their heads.
- ✔ Look for guardrails or bed-ends on all sides of the upper bed, ensuring that the tops of the guardrails are at least 160 mm (about the length of a ball point pen) above the top of the mattress, to prevent children rolling out.
- ✔ Check that ladders are firmly fixed and stable.
- ✔ Check that all tube ends are plugged on metal tubular bunk beds.
- ✔ Check that all nuts and bolts are flush and smooth, and there are no protrusions of more than 8 mm that could catch onto clothing.

### Safety at home

- ✔ Ensure upper bunk is more than 2 metres from ceiling fans.
- ✔ Regularly check that nuts and bolts are tight.