fancy a cuppa?

preventing hot drink scalds in babies and young children
safety advice for parents and carers

We nearly all do it, every day, without thinking twice. Make a hot drink.

But have you ever thought about what would happen if the kettle of boiling water got spilt over your toddler or the hot drink tipped down your baby?

And it does happen

- around two-thirds of serious hot water scalds from kettles and almost nine out of ten serious scalds from hot drinks involve children under five.

- every year, over 6,500 children under five visit hospital accident and emergency departments as a result of scalds from kettles and hot drinks.

- about one in eight of these children are admitted to hospital for five days or more.
Hot safety tips

- young children are curious about things. Keep your kettle well back from the edge of your kitchen worktop so that the kettle and cord are out of their reach.

- babies and young children move very fast and they can easily trip you up. When they’re around, don’t carry your kettle of boiling water across the kitchen and be very careful when carrying your hot drink.

- it’s easy to spill a hot drink – never pass hot drinks over babies or young children’s heads.

- babies wriggle and reach out for things. Never hold your baby and a hot drink at the same time.

- babies and young children learn by touching things but don’t understand what might hurt them. Never leave hot drinks within easy reach of babies or toddlers – their skin is much thinner than an adult’s and will scald much more easily.

First aid advice for scalds

- cool the scald immediately under a gently running cold tap for at least 10 minutes.

- remove clothing from the scalded area. If material is sticking to the skin don’t pull it away – cut around the fabric with a pair of scissors.

- cover the scald with clean, non-fluffy material to prevent infection. Cling film is ideal.

- get advice from your doctor, accident and emergency department at your local hospital or NHS Direct on 0845 4647.

Child Accident Prevention Trust is a charity committed to reducing the number of children and young people killed, disabled and seriously injured as a result of accidents.

Note to practitioners: there is a video and support cards to accompany this leaflet.

18-20 Farringdon Lane
London EC1R 3HA
t 020 7608 3828 f 020 7608 3674
e safe@capt.org.uk w www.capt.org.uk
registered charity number 1053549
© Child Accident Prevention Trust 2002
FLY001 R1.02.03

Child Accident Prevention Trust

Department of Trade and Industry
Funded through the Department of Trade and Industry's Modernisation Fund