



Window blind safety

What to look for in new blinds and
how to make existing blinds safer



**make it
safe**[™]



Making it safe

Make it Safe is a campaign by the British Blind and Shutter Association to promote window blind safety in homes, public buildings and other environments.

Step 1:
Check your
blinds

Step 2:
Buy new blinds
that are Safe by
Design

Step 3:
Make your
existing blinds
safer

Check your blinds

Young children can be strangled by loops in pull cords, chains, tapes and inner cords that operate the product.

To avoid strangulation and entanglement, keep cords out of the reach of young children. Cords may become wrapped around a child's neck.



Make sure all cords and chains are always secured out of reach of babies and young children. Do not tie cords or chains together. Make sure cords or chains do not twist and create a loop.



Move beds, cots, highchairs and playpens away from blind cords and chains.



Move furniture away from blind cords and chains as children love to climb.

Safe by Design blinds

Blinds come in an endless range of colours and finishes but when buying new blinds for your home, you must consider the way they are operated.

Safe by Design

A blind which is Safe by Design is one that is cordless or has concealed or tensioned cords:

- Usually these blinds are pushed or pulled into position
- Motorised blinds also remove the need for operating cords or chains at the side of the blind
- Shutters and external blinds are other cordless styles of window shading

Always consider these styles first when choosing your blinds.

There are Safe by Design options for :

- Roller blinds
- Venetian blinds
- Vertical blinds
- Pleated blinds
- Roman blinds



See the Make it Safe video for more options:
makeitsafe.org.uk





Wand operated vertical blinds are pushed and pulled into position by a wand which, when twisted, tilts the louvres.



Spring operated roller blinds are operated by hand. Some styles incorporate a decelerator so the blind retracts at a constant, gentle speed.



Some Venetian blinds can be raised, lowered and tilted by hand without operating cords and chains.



Shutters are opened and closed by hand.



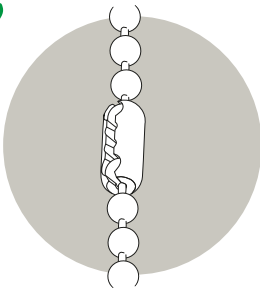
Tensioned pleated blinds have cords which are held under tension. The blind is pushed or pulled into position.



Motorised blinds are easy to operate and have no cords or chains.

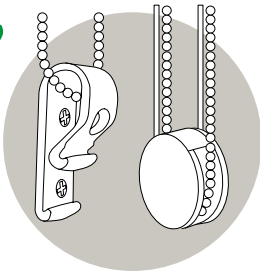
Making your existing blinds safer

If you have a window blind which has an operating cord or chain that could form a loop, you must keep it out of the reach of babies and young children. There are a range of safety devices available for every type of blind.



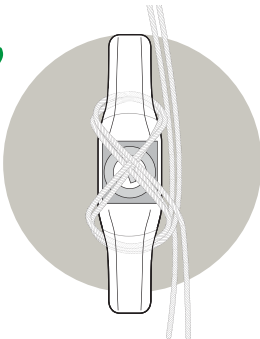
Chain-break connector

These will break apart when undue pressure is applied on the operating chain but can be reconnected again after inspection. Chain sizes vary so you must use the chain-break connector which is designed to be used with your specific chain.



Cord/chain tidys

These devices should be securely fixed to an adjacent surface and at the maximum distance from the top of the blind so the cords and/or chains are held permanently taut by the device.



Cleat

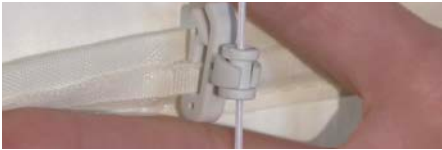
This should be securely fixed to an adjacent surface out of the reach of children and at least 1.5 metres from the floor. The cords must be secured around the cleat in an '8' formation after each and every operation of the blind. Ensure all spare cord is securely contained on the cleat.

Built-in safety systems

Built-in safety systems are contained within a product so don't need additional installation before use.

Some window sizes or shapes may not lend themselves to cordless window blinds or you may specifically wish to co-ordinate with your existing blinds. If this is the case, choose a blind style with a built-in safety device, such as

a chain-break connector where the chain is designed to separate under any undue pressure. Breakaway tassels at the bottom of cords work in the same way.



A breakaway device on the rear cords of a Roman blind. The blind raises and lowers normally but the cords will separate under undue loads.



Chain-break connectors will break apart under any undue load but after inspection can be clipped back together again.

Separate safety systems

Separate safety systems are those that require additional installation and/or operation before use.

If cordless options or those with built-in safety devices are not suitable for your specific situation then the only alternative is to use a blind with a

separate safety device, such as a tensioning system or an accumulation device like a cleat. Make sure the device is securely fitted and always used.



A cord and chain tensioner for vertical blinds to hold cord and chain taut.



A chain tensioner to hold a single chain or cord taut.

NOTE: By law there are limitations on cord and chain lengths for built-in and separate safety systems. Fixing height limitations also apply.



The British Blind and Shutter Association

The BBSA is the UK's only trade association representing companies that manufacture, supply and install interior and exterior blinds, awnings, security grilles and shutters. The BBSA launched the Make it Safe campaign in 2009 and continues to campaign for safer window blinds. To see more about the BBSA's Make it Safe campaign visit:

makeitsafe.org.uk

The Make it Safe campaign and advice in this brochure is supported by:



The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents

RoSPA is a not-for-profit organisation that has worked for more than 100 years to help people recognise and reduce their risk of accidents, at home, on the road, at work and at leisure. Its goal is to enable everyone to live their lives to the full, safely.

rospa.com



Child Accident Prevention Trust

A leading UK charity working to reduce the number of children and young people killed, disabled or seriously injured in accidents.

capt.org.uk



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Your BBSA member or approved Make it Safe dealer is:

