

Wednesday, 20 December 2017

Most trampolines dangerous, Consumer NZ says

1185 4

News > National

The Springfree trampoline was the only one to pass Consumer NZ's safety checks. Photo: Consumer NZ

Six out of seven trampolines failed a critical safety check when tested by Consumer NZ.

Only the Springfree, a soft-edge trampoline with its frame and springs beneath the jumping mat, passed all impact, structural and entrapment tests.

The safety failures of six of the seven models could cause injury to kids inside the enclosure.

None of the six could stop a child from hitting the structure with sufficient force to cause head injury, while two had accessible gaps where a child could get their head, limbs or fingers trapped.

In 2016, 11,580 trampoline-related injuries were reported to ACC, nearly 4000 more than in 2013.

Consumer NZ head of testing Paul Smith said this isn't the first time they had found safety problems with trampolines. In 2012, a test of five brands turned up a disappointingly similar result. In that test, only the Springfree model passed with no major safety issues.

"Though many injuries are down to how we use trampolines – we don't always stick to one-at-a-time supervised bouncing – that's no excuse. A poor trampoline design makes it even less safe to use."

All of the trampolines in the test were round, 3m in diameter, and enclosed with a net.

The main safety check was a shock test of the padding or soft-edge system. Consumer NZ assessed if they would adequately protect a child falling head first on to the pads.

They also observed if the pads suffer permanent damage.

The structural integrity of the frame, mat and enclosure were assessed. And finally, Consumer NZ looked for strangulation and hazards or places where fingers or limbs could get trapped, pinched or crushed around the enclosure and the edges of the trampoline.

The trampolines

Springfree \$1499 - This enclosed soft-edge springless trampoline is OK to assemble and easy to use. It passed all safety tests with good structural integrity with no significant user hazards.

Vuly Thunder Medium \$1499 - This enclosed soft-edge springless trampoline is easy to assemble and use. It failed 3 major safety tests for structural integrity and pinch or crush hazards.

Jumpflex Classic 100 \$689 - This enclosed trampoline is easy to assemble and use. But it failed 4 major safety tests for structural integrity, impact hazards, and pinch and crush points.

Kmart 10 foot with enclosure \$199 - This enclosed trampoline is easy to assemble and use. But it failed 4 major safety tests for structural integrity, impact hazards, and pinch and crush points.

Playsafe 10 ft springless trampoline with enclosure \$749 - This enclosed springless trampoline is easy to use. But it failed 4 major safety tests for structural integrity, impact hazards and pinch or crush points. It's difficult to assemble.

Lifespan 10 foot hyperjump plus \$330 - This enclosed trampoline is OK to assemble and use. But it failed 5 major safety tests for structural integrity, impact hazards, pinch and crush points, and possible head entrapment.

Plum Play Australia Space Zone 10ft Trampoline and Enclosure \$349 - his enclosed trampoline is easy to use. But it failed 5 major safety tests for structural integrity, impact hazards, pinch and crush points, and possible head entrapment.

NZME.

MOST POPULAR

Stole from disabled sister for three years

Reported sighting of missing South Otago man

Cyclist flown to hospital after Rail Trail fall

Kiwi girl 'critical' after shark attack VIDEO

Bedroom fire in Brockville extinguished

Ancient China comes to Waitaki

EDITORS' PICKS



Bedroom fire in Brockville extinguished



Ancient China comes to Waitaki



Student shows victim the kinder side of humanity



Oamaru's \$1m speed camera