

Consumer Product Safety Commission

The CPSC web site is very easy to use and has an [on-line subscription service](#) for notification of any recalls or safety concerns. There are many subscription choices, including subscribing to recalls involving only selected products, e.g., infant/child products, sports and recreation products, outdoor products, household products, and specialty products.

There are literally thousands of recalls and safety concerns that have been released since the Consumer Product Safety Commission began operating in 1973, and they all are listed. Not all recalls and safety concerns make the headlines of your local newspaper.


We recommend that you subscribe to all CPSC press releases, including recalls. This will alert you to all recalls and safety concerns in all categories.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBSCRIBING TO CPSC RECALLS AND CHECKING FOR RECALLS AND SAFETY CONCERNS

To get started, follow these simple steps:

1. Connect your Internet browser to <http://www.cpsc.gov>
2. Click on “Recalls and Product Safety News.”
3. Up pops a new window, “Recalls and Product Safety News,” where you can find recent recalls or recalls by month and year, product type, company, product description, or product category, such as toys, household products, outdoor products, etc.
4. Product type, for example, will show you all the dishwashers. Let’s do it. Click on “Product Type.”
5. Up pops a screen “Find Recalled Products by Product Type.” Over at the right you’ll see “Optional.” Let’s do a search on Kenmore dishwashers since I know there was a recall issued on February 25, 2005. In that white box under Optional, type the first three letters of dishwasher, “dis”, and click on simplify search.
6. The left side of the window is refreshed to show you all the product types that include the three letters “dis.” There are four categories shown. Click on “dishwashers” and then click on “FIND.”

7. Up pops a window “Results of Your Search.” You should see at least nine lines (as of 11/18/06); the seventh line is Kenmore. However, look at the date of the recall: February 15, 1993. Remember in Item #5 that I told you I knew there was a Kenmore recall of February 25, 2005? This is why I don’t use the “Product Type” category. In using the “Product Type” category, you will have to read all nine of those dishwasher recall documents to make sure you haven’t missed any Kenmore recalls. Kenmore currently is manufactured by Whirlpool corporation, so the very first recall line (as of 11/18/06), “Whirlpool Corporation Recall of Dishwashers (February 25, 2005)” is the one we want. Click on that line, and a new screen pops up, “NEWS from CPSC.” Scroll down and you’ll see that Whirlpool and Kenmore brands are involved. So you can see that if you just rely on headlines, your search could be faulty. It’s important that you know that brand names are not necessarily manufacturer names.
8. Now click on your browsers’ “back” button until you get back to the CPSC home page (probably five times), “Recalls and Product Safety News,” and I’ll show you a better way.
9. Now click on “Find Recalls by:” “Company.”
10. Up pops the “Find Recalled Products by Company” page. Under “Optional”, type the first three letters of Kenmore, “ken,” click on Simplify Search.
11. The screen is refreshed to show you all the companies that include the three letters “ken” in their names. Click on “Kenmore” and then click on “FIND”.
12. The screen is refreshed to show “Results of Your Search.” You should see at least 21 lines (as of 11/18/06) of products that Kenmore has recalled. Note that the headlines show “Kenmore” in only six of them yet you know that all 21 have the word “Kenmore” somewhere in the text of the recall notice. Therefore, just look for the ones that have “dishwasher” in the headline since you know that “Kenmore” and “dishwasher” gives you what you want.
13. There are only three dishwasher headlines: February 25, 2005; May 29, 1996; and February 15, 1993.
14. Now, to complete our task, let’s go back to the CPSC home page. Clicking your browser’s back button a few times should take you back, but sometimes it doesn’t here. If it doesn’t, type in www.cpsc.gov in your browser again.

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15. Now click on “Sign Up for Email Announcements.”
 16. Type your email address in the box.
 17. I recommend subscribing to “All CPSC press releases and recalls, the Public Calendar, and CPSR notification (list name: all),” but you can subscribe to toys, outdoor products, household products, etc. If you subscribe to all, though, you’ll never miss anything, regardless of how insignificant it might seem. Now click on submit.