

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **FOUR CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS RECALLED FOR LEAD CONTENT**

BALTIMORE, MD (May 3, 2007) Yesterday, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission issued three recalls due to lead poisoning hazards for products distributed by Target, Oriental Trading Company, and Baltimore-based Cardinal Distributing. Additionally, Wal-Mart announced a voluntary nationwide recall of vinyl lead-tainted children's bibs.

"Given what we know about the serious dangers posed by exposure to leaded products, it is disturbing to find the continued proliferation of products being targeted to and accessible by children," said Ruth Ann Norton, Executive Director of the Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning. "While we commend these recall actions, we urge State and Federal leaders to follow the example set by Baltimore City and establish a more stringent ban on the manufacturing and distribution of products that contain lead."

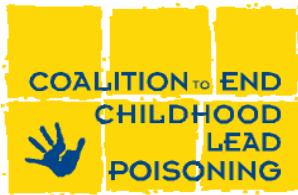
**Cardinal Distributing** (Baltimore) recalled **toy rings** sold in vending machines located in malls, discount, and grocery stores throughout the Baltimore area from August 2004 through March 2007. The rings are adorned with Dice or Horseshoes and were formerly a part of the July 2004 recall of 150 million pieces of children's jewelry. These same pieces were originally pulled from stores and then put back into circulation. The rings were manufactured in India and sold for \$.25 each.

**Oriental Trading Company** recalled approximately 132,000 **Children's Religious Fish Necklaces**. The products were sold through the company's website and catalog from January 2005 through January 2007. The necklaces were manufactured in China, have a silver fish pendant hanging from a black cord, and sold for about \$.70 each.

**Target** recalled approximately 5,000 **Anima-Bamboo Collection Games** sold nationwide from December 2006 through April 2007 because the toys in the bamboo game may contain dangerous amounts of lead paint. The games were manufactured by HaPe International of China, were packaged in orange boxes, and sold for \$10.00.

**Wal-Mart** issued a voluntary recall of **vinyl bibs**. The recalled bibs feature a vinyl front with a cloth backing or a cloth front with vinyl backing and come in a variety of colorful designs including some with Sesame Street characters. The recalled bibs were sold in packs of two or seven at Wal-Mart stores from June 2004 through March 2007 and range in price from \$2 to \$7.

Details about these and other recalls are available at [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov).



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Childhood lead poisoning is entirely preventable. Low level exposure may result in learning disabilities, lowered IQ, attention disorders, aggressive and violent behavior, hearing loss, and speech delays. High level lead poisoning can lead to coma, convulsions and even death. Lead poisoning remains the #1 environmental health threat facing children across the country.

The Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning is a nationally recognized leader, committed to the mission of eliminating childhood lead poisoning by 2010 and creating healthy homes so that children have the opportunity to reach their full potential. Information about the Coalition is available at [www.lead-safe.org](http://www.lead-safe.org).

The Coalition's direct services and outreach have provided education to over 3.5 million people and services to thousands of Maryland residents. Innovative programs and landmark policy have been a hallmark of the Coalition's success and continue to drive Maryland's nation-leading push towards elimination. The Coalition recently received a \$2,000,000 grant from HUD's Office of Healthy Homes to support Operation LEAP Baltimore, a program that will make 380 Baltimore properties lead-safe.

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