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CLASSIC COVERINGS SUPPORTS NATIONAL WINDOW COVERINGS SAFETY MONTH WITH PUBLIC SERVICE CAMPAIGN

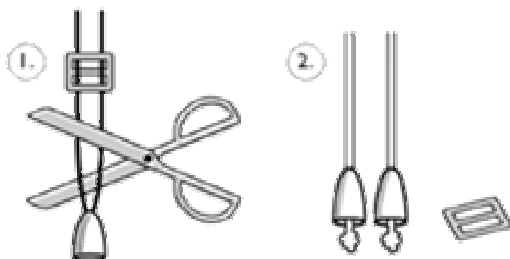
BEND, OR, September 29, 2008 – CLASSIC COVERINGS AND DESIGN, Central Oregon’s Hunter Douglas Gallery, is proud to announce their public service campaign in support of National Window Coverings Safety Month during the month of October. This annual campaign falls on the heels of the most recent window coverings tragedy that occurred on September 13, 2008, in Davie, Florida, when a 3-year old boy was strangled by the cord from a wood blind wrapped around his neck (for more information visit <http://cbs4.com/local/toddler.accident.hanging.2.820339.html>). As a public service and awareness campaign, Classic Coverings and Design will be offering free Hunter Douglas breakaway tassels and cord cleats during the month of October so consumers can retrofit their existing corded blinds and shades to improve their safety. In addition, Classic Coverings will be offering a free upgrade to the LiteRise® cordless lifting system on purchases of all Hunter Douglas products that feature this lifting system.

October marks the sixth annual National Window Coverings Safety Month, sponsored by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the Window Coverings Safety Council (WCSC), a coalition of major US manufacturers, importers and retailers of window coverings, to raise awareness of the strangulation hazards that window coverings cords can pose to young children. The goal of this campaign is to increase the consumer’s awareness of cord safety and urge parents with young children to replace or retrofit all corded blinds, shades and draperies with today’s variety of safer cord systems, especially in young children’s bedrooms and sleeping areas.

According to the CPSC, since 1990, approximately 200 infants and young children have died from accidentally strangling in the cords of window coverings, and nearly 800 children have died in the past 35 years. These tragedies occur because parents are not aware of the hazards of these cords. Throughout this month-long campaign, Classic Coverings will alert parents to the potential dangers of dangling cords and give them information, instruction and free parts to safe-proof their windows to protect their children.

How can parents tell if their window cords pose a potential safety hazard? The potential risks look different, depending on the type of window coverings, but here are the most common elements to look for:

- **Looped Pull Cords:** common in cellular shades, woven wood shades, roman shades, metal blinds. These shades may have multiple lift cords leading from the headrail into a single non-breakaway plastic tassel, which represents a strangulation risk to small children. There are three ways to resolve this issue: a) replace the tassel with a newer, “breakaway” tassel, designed to disconnect when pressure is put on the tassel, b) separate the multiple cords and attach a tassel to each cord, c) install cord cleats on the wall adjacent to the shade and tie off the dangling cord.



- Horizontal Blinds (wood or metal): The lift cords of pre-2001 horizontal blinds do not feature cord stops, which prevent children from forming loops when pulling on the lift cords. Inner cords can also pose a risk when stacking horizontal blind slats, which form bunches of cord that can be grabbed by small hands. Even new window coverings with continuous cord loop lifting systems, can pose a danger if the cord loop is not anchored to the window casing.

The Window Coverings Safety Council urges parents and caregivers with children under the age of six to follow these cord-safety rules:

- Move cribs, beds, furniture and toys away from windows and window cords, preferably to another wall.
- Keep all window cords out of the reach of children. Make sure that tasseled pull cords are short, or wrapped around a set of cord-cleats, and that continuous-loop cords are permanently anchored to the floor, wall, or window casing.
- Consider installing cordless window coverings in children's bedrooms and play areas.
- Lock cords into position whenever lowering horizontal blinds or shades, including when they come to rest on a window sill.
- Retrofit window blinds, corded shades and draperies manufactured before 2001 with retrofit cord-repair devices (available at Classic Coverings and Design) or replace them with today's safer products.

For more information consumers can visit the Window Coverings Safety Council website (<http://www.windowcoverings.org>) or call Classic Coverings and Design.

“Even though we are constantly educating our customers on the importance of child safety when selecting lifting systems, this latest tragedy in Florida was a harsh reminder of the hazards of window cords, and the importance of retro-fitting or replacing old shades that pose a risk to infants and young children,” said David Latimer, co-owner of Classic Coverings and Design. “This also illustrates why we value our relationship with Hunter Douglas, and why we have embraced the Hunter Douglas product line – they have been the industry leader in design and innovation in the child-safety arena. They are moving away from the standard cord-lock system that poses dangers to children, and they continue to expand the availability of child-safe lifting systems throughout their product line.”

Classic Coverings and Design is located at 1465 SW Knoll Ave. #103 in Bend, and is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 to 5:00, and Saturday from 10:00 – 2:00. Call Classic Coverings and Design at 541-388-4418, e-mail info@classic-coverings.com or visit www.classic-coverings.com for more information child safety, energy efficiency, window coverings, solar screens and awnings.

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