

# Safety warning

## CAUTION

Hot water bottles should be used with care, particularly around young children and the elderly.

- ✗ Never use boiling water directly from a kettle to fill a hot water bottle.
- ✗ Never fill a hot water bottle near children where a spill could cause a burn injury.
- ✗ Never leave a hot water bottle in a cot with your child.
- ✗ Do not use a hot water bottle without a wrap or cover.
- ✗ Never place weight or pressure on a hot water bottle: it may burst. Lying on a bottle can be especially dangerous.



Australian  
Competition &  
Consumer  
Commission

### For further information

ACCC Infocentre on 1300 305 502

[www.accc.gov.au](http://www.accc.gov.au)

PO Box 1199 Dickson ACT 2602

**Important notice.** The information in this brochure is general in nature and may not be relevant to your specific circumstances. While the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has made every reasonable effort to provide current and accurate information, readers should be aware that the ACCC accepts no liability for any loss or damage whatsoever attributable to reliance upon any of that information. Nothing in this brochure should be taken to displace the need to seek professional advice. The ACCC recommends that users exercise their own skill and care with respect to its use.

Produced by the ACCC 07/06



Australian  
Competition &  
Consumer  
Commission

# HOT WATER bottles



SAFETY ALERT

**'hot water burns like fire'**

# SAFETY HAZARD

## Hot water bottles

Hot water bottles can be comforting for warmth or assist with injury treatment. However, incorrect use can result in serious burns.

Burn injuries have resulted when filling a hot water bottle or expelling air from the bottle.

Over time, rubber hot water bottles can perish, increasing the risk of leaks or splitting at the seams—especially if placed under pressure by a person lying on it in bed.

**Protect yourself—follow the safety checklist in this brochure.**



*Never lie on top of a hot water bottle—the rubber can split and cause a hot water burn.*



## STAY SAFE

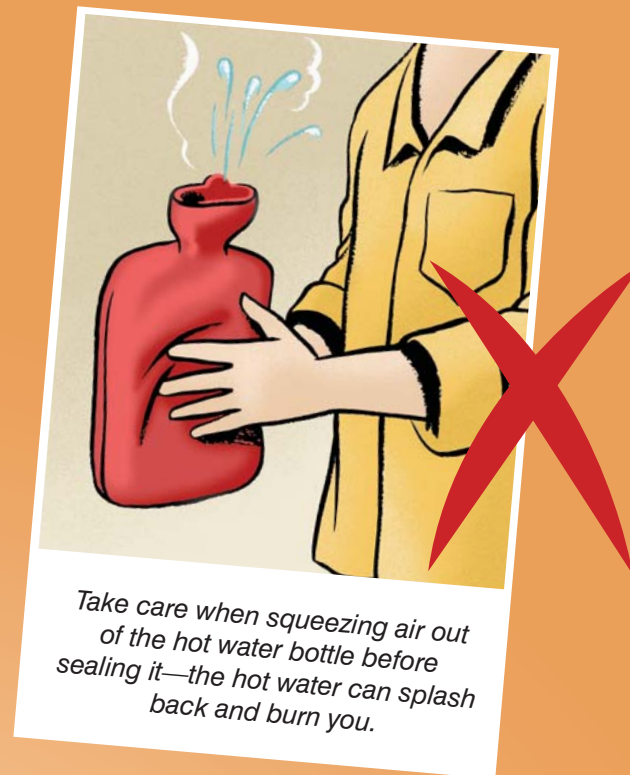
### Safety checklist for hot water bottles

#### Before you buy a hot water bottle

- ✓ Check that the hot water bottle is well made, especially around the seams.
- ✓ Be aware that rubber hot water bottles may perish over time. Hot water bottles made from neoprene or other synthetic materials may last longer.
- ✓ Choose a hot water bottle with a large opening—this can reduce the risk of hot water splashing over you when filling.

#### Take care when filling a hot water bottle

- ✓ Check the condition of the bottle before filling it. Discard it if it shows any sign of perishing or splitting.
- ✓ Ensure the water temperature is well below boiling. If it is too hot to touch, it is too hot for the bottle.
- ✓ Always fill a hot water bottle over a sink and keep the bottle well away from your body to avoid serious burns.
- ✓ Take care not to overfill or pour water too quickly into the bottle.
- ✓ Keep the filled hot water bottle away from your body when expelling air from it—the hot water could splash back and burn you.
- ✓ Make sure the plug is properly fitted and sealed to prevent hot water leaking out.



*Take care when squeezing air out of the hot water bottle before sealing it—the hot water can splash back and burn you.*

#### Before using a hot water bottle

- ✓ Wrap the bottle in a towel or cover before using it to help prevent burns.
- ✓ You should use the hot water bottle to warm the bed and remove it before getting into bed.
- ✓ Store your hot water bottle in a cool, dry location. Keeping the bottle in a damp area or in sunlight can lead to perishing.