



# Topic: Game Consoles

*Play it safe when using home gaming systems.*

Console games are flying off the shelf. Retailers are reporting they can't keep the latest and greatest gaming devices in stock. And as more gaming devices find their way into American homes, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is releasing information on how to keep gaming devices from overheating.

Since the beginning of 2000, there have been 226 incidents reported to CPSC involving electronic game systems. Of those, 107 indicated some form of overheating or fire. In those cases where overheating or fire was reported, there were 15 cases of injury.

To promote safe use of gaming devices the CPSC offers the following tips:

- ✚ Read the owners manual for information on how to install and use the gaming device.
- ✚ Do not place the system on soft surfaces, such as a bed, sofa or carpeting that can block ventilation openings.
- ✚ Do not place the system in confined areas, such as an entertainment unit, bookcase or rack, unless the space is well ventilated.
- ✚ Do not install the system near heat sources, such as heat registers, radiators or heaters.
- ✚ Do not overload electrical sockets with too many devices.
- ✚ Do not expose the system to extreme heat or cold.
- ✚ Keep the system on a level surface.
- ✚ Turn the system off when not in use.
- ✚ Unplug the system in the event of storms or severe weather.
- ✚ Never use a game system with a damaged power supply cord.