

Hair straightener burns double

In recent years **the number of children being treated for burns from hair straighteners has doubled**. They now account for up to 1 in 10 burns injuries to children.

Most injuries occur when crawling babies and toddlers grab at them, step on them, sit on them or pull them down onto their faces. Burns to a baby's hands carry the risk of long-term disability from contractures and scarring. Burns to the face carry the risk of permanent disfigurement.

Katrina Phillips, Chief Executive of the **Child Accident Prevention** Trust said:

"Parents don't know that hair straighteners can get as hot as their iron. Toddlers are into everything but don't know that heat hurts. Add in the chaos of getting everyone ready and out of the house, and it's no surprise these horrible burns are on the increase.

"We urge parents to keep hair straighteners out of reach and store them away safely – in a heat proof pouch if you can."

Keep your children safe

If you use hair straighteners, follow our top tips to make sure that you, and your children, stay safe from electrical burns:

- **Keep hair straighteners out of reach of children**
Children's skin can be 15 times thinner than that of adults so it's important to keep them out of reach of little feet and hands.
- **Use a heat proof pouch**
Hair straighteners stay hot up to forty minutes after they have been switched off. A heat proof pouch is the easiest and safest way to store a product after use.
- **Keep them away from skin**
Do not allow the any of the hot plates to come into contact with the face, neck or scalp when using straighteners.
- **Seek medical attention**
In the incident of a serious burn, seek immediate medical attention. If the hot plates comes into contact with the skin but it is not serious, run the affected area under cold water.