

Top Safety Tips for Parents Hosting a Bouncy Castle/inflatable Party

7 Top Safety Tips for Concerned Parents Hosting a Bouncy Castle Party.

This is an easy to read document put together to give you some advice based on our extensive experience in the hire industry. We hope this information will help you get the most from your party and everyone can have fun in the safest possible way!

(1) Adult Supervision at all times

It's so important that all bouncy castle users are supervised at ALL times by a responsible adult to ensure that users stay off the walls, the castle doesn't exceed the maximum number of children allowed and that the pegs or sand bags used to secure the castle remain in place.

(2) No Somersaults or Rough Play

The most common cause of an accident using a bouncy castle is down to somersaulting, rough play or wrestling, it's so important that (1) users are informed before using the castle that this is not permitted and (2) if the responsible adult notices that this begins to happen that it is stopped immediately.

(3) Similar Size Users Only

If hosting a family party or event where there's a range of different ages of children that will want to use the castle it's essential that ONLY children of similar sizes and ages use the unit at the same time. The easiest way to operate this is to have a rotor where by e.g. children between 5-8 use the castle for 10 mins & then children between 9-12 use it for the next 10 minutes and so on.

(4) Public Liability Insurance

When hiring a Bouncing Castle it's so so important that the company you're hiring the castle from carries a minimum of £1m pounds public liability insurance, if in doubt ask in advance and / or ask for your hirer to bring their public liability insurance certificate with them on the day of your booking. If hiring a castle at a local pub or venue which serves alcohol it's important to ensure that your hirer's insurance includes hiring the unit on licensed premises where liquor is sold as many standard policies don't include this but many give the option to add this on.

(5) Accepting Liability

On the day of your booking you will no doubt be asked to sign a terms and conditions agreement which simply states that any incidents or injuries made whilst the castle is hired out to you are not the responsibility of the bouncy castle company and that you are accepting liability should an incident occur. Therefore, it's important that you ensure users abide by the T's and C's as any injury claims

could be made against you. Many party hosts are now gaining their own insurance for their parties as there are other risks involved in hosting a party. We recommend that you thoroughly read the T's & C's from your hire company so you are fully aware of your responsibilities.

(6) User Restrictions

If you've hired a child's bouncy castle then adults and teens **MUST** keep off the unit, the material used to build child's castles is typically a much thinner than that of an adult unit and so there is a good reason why units are classed as "not suitable for adults" and others as adult bouncy castles. You must also ensure that you do not exceed the maximum number of users the castle can hold (your hirer will be able to advise you of what this is).

(7) Weather Restrictions

Do not risk using a castle or bouncy slide during heavy winds (excess of 24mph is the industry guideline), heavy rain or snow. During times of heavy rain or snow it becomes too dangerous to use the castle due to the water and mud brought in by users who hop on & off the castle making it too slippery to use. Some units include rain covers which are suitable for light rain and showers however during ongoing bad weather I advise the unit is vacated & wiped down with a towel when the weather dies off, before using it again.

(8) Other Inflatables

If you have hired any other type of inflatable, you will be able to obtain a risk assessment from them for that particular inflatable which you should read carefully so that you are fully aware of the risks and how to use the equipment safely.

And remember, if in doubt about anything at all, always ask your castle hirer at the beginning of your booking and ensure that you get their phone number so that any safety questions can be answered immediately.

If you take your safety responsibilities seriously and monitor safety on the day, you will have a very safe and enjoyable experience!

We hope you have lots of fun!

The above is an abbreviated guide only and not official documentation.

Splash Inflatables, Event ninja