

What to Do with a Defective Product

The recent recall of Toyota vehicles should serve as a wakeup call to consumers. You must maintain vigilance concerning defective products and understand what to do if you come into contact with a defective item. Every year thousands of Americans are injured by defective products. In 2009 alone, consumers saw recalls of everything from peanuts and pistachios to laptops and window blinds. Don't let yourself or someone you love be injured by a product you assumed to be safe.

Companies that make defective products must take responsible measures to ensure a product is used for the purpose for which it is intended. A product is considered defective if it does not provide the level of safety which the community is generally entitled to expect. A faulty or defective product can include industrial machinery, prescription medication, toys, household appliances, automobiles, medical devices, firearms and toxic chemicals.

A [defective product lawyer](#)'s practice deals with products that fall into one of three categories – design defect, manufacturer's defect and a failure to warn of dangers posed by the product.

A design defect involves a product that is in itself problematic, which means the manufacturer simply did not engineer a safe product.

Manufacturer's defects cover items that come off an assembly line with some kind of defect, making them more dangerous than similar products. This type of item can also be a "fluke" or a "one in a million" mistake that makes it out of the factory.

A failure to warn covers instructions, directions and warnings that come with a product. A [personal injury lawyer](#) can help determine whether the product came with adequate information to alert a customer of the dangers the product can pose.

Cases of consumer protection law can be tricky. The victim or victim's family must act quickly in the aftermath. Victims *must* preserve the product that caused an injury. Even if the product has been damaged, saving that item is imperative! It is likely that highly technical questions surrounding the product's failure will arise during the course of the case. Personal injury attorneys may have to consult mechanics or engineers to examine the defective item and answer any associated technical questions. Contact a personal injury lawyer immediately to help prevent crucial evidence from being destroyed.

Injuries from defective products can be severe and result in amputation, paralysis and even wrongful death. Consumers who are injured by these products have a right to be compensated for these injuries. In some cases, compensation can be recovered for pain and suffering, past and future medical bills, lost wages, loss of consortium and the permanency of injury.

If you are injured by a defective product, call a personal injury attorney quickly. The law sets time limits for victims to pursue these claims. After the limits pass, the right to recover money from a manufacturer or supplier is lost. Many lawyers will offer a free consultation while you recover from the injuries. Give them a chance to evaluate your case offer guidance on how to move forward. A personal injury lawyer understands your confusion and distress following an injury, but there are a number of steps that must be taken immediately. Instead of worrying about what you need to do, let a personal injury attorney take care of everything for you!

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