

What is a novelty lighter?

Novelty lighters are defined as “lighters that have features that make them attractive to children under five,” including “lighters with features entertaining to children, such as visual effects like flashing lights, or sound effects like musical notes.”

This includes but is not limited to, lighters that depict cartoon characters, toys, guns, watches, musical instruments, vehicles, toy animals, food or beverages.

I thought all lighters were supposed to be child proof?

Make no mistake; it is common knowledge that nothing is child proof. Lighters manufactured or imported after July 1994 are required to be child resistant. This came about as the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimated that children younger than age five playing with cigarette lighters ignited 5,900 residential fires that resulted in 170 deaths and 1150 injuries annually for the period 1986-88. Disposable lighters were involved in 97 percent of those fires and accounted for about 95 percent of the estimated 488 million disposable lighters sold annually during that period.

Where are these lighters found?

These lighters are found in more places than you might think. It is possible that you have seen some of these lighters before, but assumed that it was a toy or key chain sitting by the register at your local convenience store - one of those last minute “impulse buys”. You can also find them at dollar stores, drug stores, tobacco outlets and even county and state fairs.

Where have these lighters been banned?

Many countries in Europe have had bans in place for quite some time. A handful of cities in the U.S. have realized the dangers of these lighters and began taking action with bans of their own. With support for this worthwhile cause, momentum is gaining everyday.

Are you trying to get eliminate lighters all together?

No. The goal is not to eliminate lighters as a whole, just those that fall under the category of "Novelty Lighter". Many of these lighters do not meet the child resistant requirements set forth by the U.S. government. The problem is compounded by making them look cute and fun to play with.

Where can I go to learn more?

The *No Novelty Lighters* website has many links in which you can find a great deal of useful information. You may also contact your local fire department and they will be glad to share with you more information. You may also contact any of the contacts listed below and we will be glad to answer any questions that you may have.