

## Honey, Don't Do This

*By Hap Hansen*

'Tis the season to be jolly. 'Tis the season to make sure those gifts we buy for relatives and friends will be safe to use by the recipients.

Because many Americans sue at the drop of a hat, manufacturing companies have gone to great lengths to avoid product liability claims even though many claims are groundless. A lot of people who sue know the companies may pay off, even if they have no liability, simply because sometimes it costs more for court costs than to pay the dollars accusers are asking for.

Here is some information on instructions about Honey-do's for items you might be considering purchasing for Christmas gifts:

...on a hair dryer: "Do not use while sleeping."

...on packaging for an iron: "Do not iron clothes on body."

...on a kitchen knife: "WARNING, keep out of children!"

...on a string of Christmas lights: "For indoor or outdoor use only."

...on a chainsaw: "Do not stop chain with your hand."

Some other Honey-do instructions:

...on a bag of potato chips: "You could be a winner. No purchase necessary. Details inside package!"

...on a frozen dinner: "Defrost before eating."

...on the bottom of a dessert: "Do not turn upside down".

...on an infant's cough medicine: "Do not drive car or operate machinery!"

...on a sleep aide: "May cause drowsiness."

...on a package of peanuts: "WARNING-contains nuts."

Apparently, manufacturers have to put warnings on their products. So for a safe Holiday Season, just follow these Honey-do's:

...when you start your car, the engine will be running.

...when you take a walk at minus 10 degrees, it will be cold.

...if you spill mustard on your white cashmere sweater, it will leave a stain.

...when you drink 10 martinis, you will flunk the sobriety test.

...when you can't read this column, you need glasses.

This Holiday Season, be careful, be kind, be generous and do a Honey-do!