

CONSUMER IMPACT

Vol. 16 No.1 May, 2026



Adherence to Product
Recall
Page 10



Safety of lighting and the use of
household appliances
Page 11

Safe Products, Confident Consumers

Students Applauded at WCRD Awards Ceremony



WRONG VOLTAGE, WRONG CHOICE!

Kiara Bailey and Kiara Kwenga of the Christ the King High School captured first place in the Secondary School Video Competition. They highlighted a costly mistake made by many consumers: unboxing new electrical appliances and plugging them directly into wall outlets without reading the instruction manual first.



INFORMED PURCHASING

In the Primary School Jingle Competition, St. Michael's Primary School captured second place. They urged consumers to "Look, ask, and check, before you pay".

Page 18

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

As we observe World Consumer Rights Day, this year's theme, "Safe Products, Confident Consumers", underscores the need for products that are safe, reliable and fit for purpose. Every day, consumers make choices that shape our economies and the quality of life in our communities. Yet a marketplace's strength is not measured by sales alone but by how well it protects consumers' rights. Confidence grows when people can trust that products meet safety standards and do not threaten their health or well-being.

As global supply chains become more complex and online commerce expands, unsafe products can circulate more quickly and widely. Consumers in Antigua and Barbuda increasingly shop online and engage in cross-border transactions, raising their exposure to hazardous goods, including items banned or recalled elsewhere but still available for sale in the online markets.

Informal economic activity in our small market also presents a challenge for consumers. Some businesses operate without registration, documentation or formal structures, which hinders regulatory oversight and makes it harder to resolve consumer disputes.

The Consumer Protection Act 2025 reinforces the importance of protecting consumers. The Act promotes consumer interests in relation to the supply of goods and services and emphasizes the responsibility of suppliers to ensure that products placed on the market are safe, properly labelled, and suitable for their intended purpose. It also addresses misleading practices, product liability, and proper



Hon. E. P Chet Greene
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade
and Barbuda Affairs

identification of suppliers, helping to strengthen consumer confidence and accountability within the marketplace.

Being a confident consumer means understanding our rights and responsibilities. We must remain vigilant by inspecting goods and reporting unsafe or defective products. Through informed choices and responsible practices, consumers can help promote a safer marketplace.

Manufacturers and businesses also play a critical role in ensuring products comply with recognized safety standards. Proper testing, quality control, clear labelling, and adherence to safety regulations are essential in building consumer trust and confidence.

Consumer education is one of the most effective tools to promote consumer safety. I take this opportunity to commend the staff at the Prices and Consumer Affairs Division for their hard work and creative ways of educating and engaging the public on this year's theme. I hope the Division will continue its efforts, as informed consumers are more likely to demand safe products and hold suppliers accountable.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Each year on March 15, the global community observes World Consumer Rights Day, the only internationally recognised day dedicated to advancing consumer rights, protection, and empowerment. This observance provides an important opportunity to reflect on the safety of the products we rely on every day and the systems in place to protect consumers.

Consumers interact daily with manufactured products—food, medicines, household appliances, electronics, toys, and vehicles. Product safety, however, cannot be taken for granted. From design, manufacturing, packaging, marketing, and sales, critical decisions are made that determine whether a product is safe, reliable, and fit for use. This reality is captured in this year's theme: "Safe Products, Confident Consumers."

Unsafe products continue to pose serious risks worldwide. Faulty electronics, hazardous toys, counterfeit medicines, and poorly labelled household goods can result in injury, illness, financial loss, or worse. As global supply chains expand and online shopping becomes more prevalent, unsafe products are able to enter our market more quickly and with fewer barriers, increasing the risks faced by consumers.

Product safety is not a regulatory requirement — it is a public safety issue. Consumers have the right to accurate information and protection from harm. When unsafe products reach the market, these rights are compromised, and public confidence is undermined.



Orrin Steele
Director, Prices and Consumer Affairs

Ensuring product safety requires strong collaboration. Businesses must ensure that goods are safe and properly labelled. We must enforce legislation and educate the public specifically the vulnerable groups, including children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

Consumers themselves also play an important role. Staying informed, reading labels and instructions, reporting unsafe products, and making responsible purchasing choices all contribute to a safer marketplace.

As we observe World Consumer Rights Day 2026 the Division reaffirms its commitment to strengthening consumer protection and enforcement. Together, these efforts help ensure that products available in our market are safe and that consumers can use them with confidence.



Source: clinkally.com/



Source: clinkally.com/

BEYOND THE LABEL

Dr Linroy Christian and Ms J'herdine Browne

Products are an essential part of our daily lives; from the face wash we use to the food we eat, and the cleaning supplies used in our homes. Their safety and quality directly affect our health and well-being. Product safety is not just about regulations; it is essential to protect human health and the environment. It is important to assess what truly builds a consumer's confidence, Trust. Trust should not be gained by elaborate marketing or 'best product' stickers; it should be gained through science.

Safety is fundamental to protecting the rights of every citizen. Behind every product should be a rigorous set of scientific evaluations to ensure that what we consume does not pose a risk to our health. Unfortunately, there are thousands of products, seemingly approved to be on the market, that still significantly affect consumers' well-being.

Quality tests are imperative for smaller developing countries like ours due to our heavy reliance on imported goods. We must develop robust scientific surveillance systems to verify the safety

quality of products entering our markets. This is imperative because the lack of adequate analyses can cause harmful products to go undetected, placing consumers at risk and undermining public confidence and, more importantly, health.

Strong scientific evidence is the backbone of effective consumer protection. However, ensuring product safety requires more than routine checks. It demands continuous strengthening of our scientific capacity. The ability to generate reliable, timely, and comprehensive data is essential for guiding national policies, informing regulatory decisions, and responding effectively to emerging risks.

At the Department of Analytical Services, we are committed to our responsibility of carrying out various analyses of essential commodities. Water, for instance, is a necessity, and not something whose quality should be of concern to citizens. We routinely analyze water for microbial contamination to ensure that it is safe for consumption. Food products are assessed

for harmful microorganisms that can potentially lead to foodborne illnesses, while cosmetics are examined for hazardous substances such as mercury and other endocrine-disrupting chemicals that may have long-term effects.

Despite the recognition of the importance of these systems, there remains a need to expand and enhance testing across key areas. Increased attention to general product safety, be it the food we consume or the products we wear or utilise, is necessary to keep pace with evolving risks. Investing in modern equipment, advanced methodologies, and skilled personnel will ensure that our country remains proactive rather than reactive in safeguarding public health.

When consumers are confident that the products they use have been thoroughly tested and verified, they are empowered to make informed choices. This confidence strengthens public health outcomes, the integrity of our markets, and the credibility of our national systems.



Source: palomahealth.

Food products are assessed for harmful microorganisms that can potentially lead to foodborne illnesses, while cosmetics are examined for hazardous substances

Ensuring the safety of products will not happen by chance, but the result of deliberate, science-driven efforts. By continuing to prioritize and support these efforts, we reinforce a simple but powerful truth: trust goes beyond the label. When safety is assured, confidence naturally follows.

Navigating Unsafe Products and Seeking Redress

When consumers purchase products in Antigua and Barbuda, they have a right to safety. If a consumer discovers that a purchased item is defective, hazardous, or unsafe, taking immediate action protects their household and the public.

Here are the steps to seek redress and stay safe, whether shopping locally or online.

Step 1: Contact the Supplier First



Your first line of action is to return to the supplier. Present your receipt, clearly explain the safety hazard or defect, and request redress (which may include a refund, replacement, or repair).

Note: Document everything – receipts, photos of the unsafe product or packaging, and dates of your conversations with the supplier.

Step 2: Escalate to the Prices and Consumer Affairs Division



If the supplier refuses to cooperate, minimizes your safety concerns, or fails to provide satisfactory assistance, immediately contact the Prices and Consumer Affairs Division. As the regulatory body responsible for protecting consumer rights in Antigua and Barbuda, the Division will investigate the complaint and ensure compliance with consumer protection legislation.

WORLD CONSUMER RIGHTS DAY WEBINAR

Topic: “Safe Products, Confident Consumers”



Zepherinus Churchill Norbert

MSc., CEM, CFM, CEP-Photovoltaics.



Dr Linroy Christian (PhD)
Director of Analytical Services

The Prices and Consumer Affairs Division recently hosted a webinar in observance of World Consumer Rights Day, bringing together experts to discuss product safety, consumer protection, and the importance of making informed purchasing decisions.

The session opened with remarks from Orrin Steele, who stressed the importance of protecting consumers from unsafe and non-compliant products. He pointed to concerns surrounding items such as toys, cosmetics, medicines, vehicles, and household appliances, especially as online shopping continues to grow. He noted that faulty or poorly regulated products can pose serious health and safety risks and emphasized the need for stronger collaboration among government agencies and the private sector.

A key presentation during the webinar was delivered by Churchill Norbert, who focused on electrical product safety and the importance of international certification standards. His presentation educated consumers on how to identify safe and reliable products through proper labeling, safety warnings, voltage and frequency information, and recognized certification marks such as UL, CE, CSA, and TÜV.

Mr. Norbert explained the difference between product labeling and product certification and encouraged consumers to purchase products from reputable brands and retailers whenever possible.

He also highlighted several common household electrical hazards involving chargers, adapters, power strips, kitchen appliances, portable heaters, and lighting products.

Special attention was given to the challenges associated with online shopping, where consumers may unknowingly purchase uncertified or low-quality electrical products. Mr. Norbert encouraged consumers to research products carefully, verify certification markings, and pay close attention to warranty coverage before making purchases online.

The webinar also featured remarks from Dr. Christian, who discussed the role of scientific testing and environmental monitoring in consumer protection. His presentation highlighted concerns surrounding harmful chemicals, including Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and mercury contamination in products such as skin lightening creams and certain fish species.

Dr. Christian also shared information on ongoing testing initiatives and regional collaborations aimed at strengthening public health protection and improving the country's ability to monitor potentially dangerous products entering the market.

Throughout the webinar, presenters emphasized that consumer safety depends not only on regulation and enforcement but also on public awareness and responsible purchasing habits.

The Prices and Consumer Affairs Division also outlined plans to continue strengthening consumer education through additional webinars, outreach programmes, and collaboration with partner agencies. Ongoing efforts are also being made to formalize agreements between departments to improve joint investigations, product testing, market surveillance, and public notification processes for unsafe products.

The webinar concluded with a reminder for consumers to research products carefully, read labels, and prioritize certified and trusted products to help ensure the safety and well-being of their households.

The Prices and Consumer Affairs Division also outlined plans to continue strengthening consumer education through additional webinars, outreach programmes, and collaboration with partner agencies. Ongoing efforts are also being made to formalize agreements between departments to improve joint investigations, product testing, market surveillance, and public notification processes for unsafe products.

The webinar concluded with a reminder for consumers to research products carefully, read labels, and prioritize certified and trusted products to help ensure the safety and well-being of their households.

Be A Vigilant and Responsible Consumer

Every day, consumers walk into stores or browse online shops, assuming that if a product is available for sale, it must be safe. However, safety doesn't start and end at the checkout counter. True consumer protection is a partnership that requires us to shop with care, caution, and a high level of personal responsibility.

To protect your wallet and your household, keep these four essential pillars of consumer responsibility in mind before making a purchase.

1. Examine Before You Purchase

Never buy blindly. Take a moment to carefully examine the product's condition before making a purchase. Look for broken safety seals, dented cans, expired dates, or loose parts. If something looks compromised, leave it on the shelf.

2. Follow the Instructions

Product manuals are not optional reading; they are your safety guide. Before plugging in a new appliance or using a new device, read the manufacturer's instructions thoroughly. Pay close attention to warnings, voltage requirements, and age recommendations to prevent avoidable accidents or damage.



3. Assemble with Care

Furniture, toys, and appliances often require home assembly. Rushing through the process or skipping steps can leave a product structurally unsound and dangerous. Always use the correct tools, follow the step-by-step assembly diagrams carefully, and ensure all screws and fasteners are tightly secured.

4. Use and Store Properly

A product is only as safe as its environment. Always use items for their intended purpose; misusing tools or appliances can lead to injury. Furthermore, proper storage is critical. Keep hazardous chemicals out of the reach of children, store electronics away from moisture, and follow temperature storage guidelines.



CONSUMERS CAUTIONED AGAINST PURCHASING UNSAFE PRODUCTS ONLINE

As global e-commerce continues to expand, Antigua faces growing risk as unsafe and recalled products find their way into many local households. Online shopping makes it easier than ever for dangerous imports to bypass traditional safeguards, prompting experts to warn consumers to exercise caution and avoid buying risky goods.

As global e-commerce continues to expand, Antigua faces growing risk as unsafe and recalled products find their way into many local households. Online shopping makes it easier than ever for dangerous imports to bypass traditional safeguards, prompting experts to warn consumers to exercise caution and avoid buying risky goods.

Director of Prices and Consumer Affairs, Orrin Steele, expressed concern that recalled goods, instead of being destroyed, are often put back into circulation through online marketplaces. Legal loopholes sometimes allow these banned products to be exported abroad, even when they are removed from sale in their home countries.

"Rather than the suppliers destroying them, the products are being recirculated or entering the market through online means," Steele explained, adding that consumers are rarely aware they might be purchasing unsafe items.

Antigua's reliance on imports and the surge in post-pandemic e-commerce have increased the risk. Steele noted that with over 300 courier services active, and the majority of residents

major global platforms like Amazon and AliExpress, safety checks are seldom more than a glance at user reviews.

"Nobody does research to find out if this product was recalled, or if this product was even banned in a particular country."

The director stated that these important aspects should not be overlooked, as the dangers are wide-ranging.

Referencing a recent consultation on pharmaceutical safety, Steele explained that consumer protection agencies highlighted the problem of imported medications lacking proper labels, instructions, or required prescriptions.

This practice, he warned, can expose unsuspecting users to potentially life-threatening risks.

The automotive sector faces similar threats, with recurring reports of defective airbags and substandard vehicle parts. These parts, often purchased online at lower prices, may



Lancelot James (far right) during a presentation on unsafe products with auto mechanic and welding students at The Harrison Centre, Antigua and Barbuda School of Continuing Education (HCSCE / ABICE).

significantly increase the risk of accidents due to inadequate performance, such as ineffective brake pads or compromised safety features.

Veteran mechanic Lancelot James, with more than three decades in the business, cautioned that counterfeit vehicle parts are now so convincingly made that most consumers cannot tell them apart from genuine ones.

The knockoffs are so authentic-looking that you can't tell sometimes," James said, warning that trust in the dealer and real-world performance are often the only ways to judge. He added that aftermarket parts frequently result in problems like squealing brakes and increased stopping distances.

Experts urge consumers to consult official recall lists and ban notices before making purchases.



Source: taazakhabarnews

Special Caution for Online Shoppers

If you are purchasing goods from international online retail platforms, before hitting "Buy," take these preventative steps:

Check International Recalls: Visit the manufacturers' or official regulatory sites (such as the US CPSC, NHTSA, European Safety Gate, or FDA) to ensure the item has not been flagged for safety hazards or manufacturing defects.

Verify Banned Status: Ensure the product is not legally banned or restricted from importation into Antigua and Barbuda.



Adherence to Product Recalls

Product recalls are issued to protect consumers from harm, yet too often they are ignored or overlooked. Adherence to recall notices is essential for ensuring public safety and preventing injuries.

A product recall is a corrective action taken by a manufacturer or distributor to fix a product that poses a safety risk. The main goal of a recall is to prevent injury, illness or other hazards by alerting consumers and moving affected products from the market.

Adherence to recall notices is essential to ensure consumer safety. When recalls are ignored, defective or unsafe products remain in circulation, putting consumers at greater risk of injury or illness. Compliance with recalls not only protects consumers but also helps suppliers stop the harmful product and prevent further distribution.

Efficient adherence to recalls depends on the shared responsibility of suppliers and the Prices and Consumer Affairs Division. Under Section 110 of the Consumer Protection Act 2025, suppliers can voluntarily initiate a product recall once they discover that their goods may cause injury, loss, or damage to consumers. Once a supplier takes action to recall a product due to a safety risk or defect, they must provide a formal written notice to the Director of Prices and Consumer Affairs within two business days or face legal consequences.

Should suppliers be tardy, reluctant, or refuse to remove recalled goods from the shelf, the division will take action and remove them. Under Section 111

of the Act, the Director has the authority to issue "Compulsory Recall Notices" against suppliers who fail to protect the public from hazardous products. Under a compulsory order, a supplier can be legally required to disclose the nature of the defect or dangerous characteristic of the product, the specific circumstances in which using the product becomes dangerous, the correct procedure for the public to safely dispose of the good and clear instructions on how consumers can obtain a full refund, repair, or replacement. A supplier who fails to comply can face legal consequences.

Consumers must also remain vigilant and act swiftly when recall notices are issued. The most important step is safety; stop using the product immediately. Read the recall notice carefully as it contains vital instructions. Locate your proof of purchase, as having your receipt generally makes the process faster. Return the product to the place of purchase for redress. Should the supplier refuse to assist or claim they are unaware of the recall, contact the division.

In conclusion, adherence to product recall notices is a crucial pillar of consumer protection and public safety. By responding swiftly to recall notices, consumers minimize risk, while suppliers uphold their shared responsibility to ensure unsafe products are removed efficiently. Strengthening awareness and enhancing communication are essential to improving compliance. Timely adherence to recalls not only prevents harm but also reinforces trust in the marketplace.



**SAFETY OF LIGHTING
AND THE USE OF
HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES
FROM THE ANTIGUA PUBLIC UTILITIES
AUTHORITY (APUA)**

Electricity powers our homes, businesses, and communities across Antigua and Barbuda. From lighting our homes at night to operating appliances that make everyday life easier, electricity is an essential service that supports modern living. However, the benefits of electricity must always be accompanied by responsible use and proper safety practices.

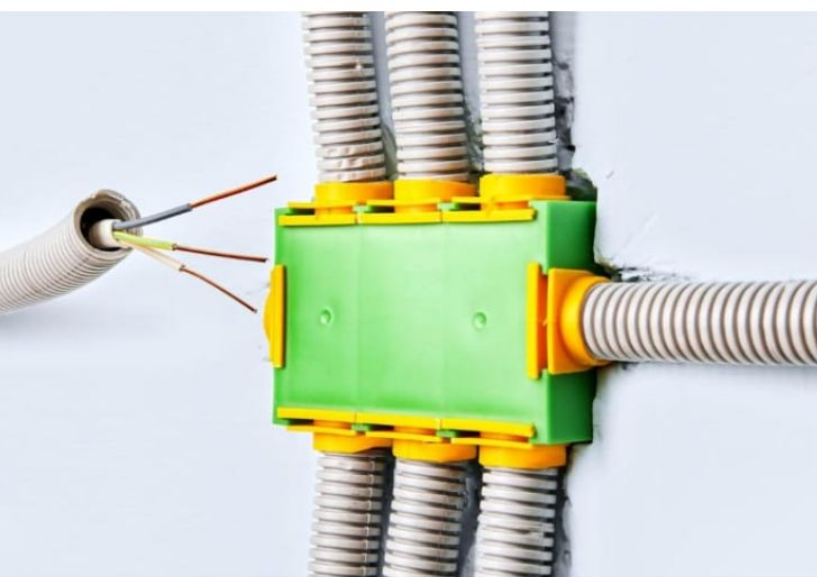
As the nation's electricity provider, Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) encourages all customers to ensure that lighting installations and household appliance usage follow safe electrical practices. Proper electrical installations not only protect lives and property but also contribute to the reliability of the country's electrical infrastructure.

Electrical installations should always comply with APUA's installation guidelines, which adopt the National Electrical Code (NEC) as the standard for safe electrical design and installation. Hiring qualified electricians to perform electrical work ensures that lighting fixtures, wiring, and electrical systems are installed correctly and safely.

One of the most common electrical hazards in homes is exposed wiring. Electrical conductors that are not properly enclosed can pose serious risks of electric shock or fire. All electrical wiring should be protected in conduits or approved cable systems, and junction boxes must be securely covered. Any damaged or frayed wiring should be repaired immediately to maintain a safe electrical environment.

In areas where lighting installations may be more exposed, additional precautions should be taken to ensure safety. Lighting fixtures should be installed at heights that are not easily accessible to children, outdoor lighting should be properly enclosed, and temporary wiring should never be used as a permanent electrical solution.

Household appliances greatly improve convenience and productivity in our homes, but they must also be used responsibly. Appliances should always be connected to properly grounded outlets, and customers should avoid



overloading outlets or extension cords. Regularly inspecting appliance cords and plugs can help prevent overheating and electrical faults.

Energy efficiency is also an important factor when selecting household appliances. Electricity generation in island systems can be costly, and making efficient choices can help reduce household electricity bills. The current average electricity cost in Antigua and Barbuda is approximately EC \$0.97 per kilowatt-hour.

For example, a 1,500-watt appliance operating for five hours each day consumes approximately 7.5 kilowatt-hours of electricity daily. At EC \$0.97 per kilowatt-hour, this could result in a monthly cost of more than EC \$218 if used consistently. Selecting energy-efficient appliances can significantly reduce these costs over time.

When purchasing appliances, customers should consider more than just the purchase price. Energy-efficient appliances may have a higher upfront cost but often consume less electricity and provide savings throughout their lifespan. Reviewing energy efficiency labels, manufacturer specifications, and customer feedback can help consumers make informed purchasing decisions.

Electrical safety is a shared responsibility. While APUA ensures the safe delivery of electricity to the customer's meter point, customers are responsible for maintaining safe wiring and electrical systems within their homes and businesses. By following installation guidelines, hiring qualified electricians, and using appliances responsibly, customers can greatly reduce the risk of electrical hazards.

Through safe lighting practices and responsible appliance use, the people of Antigua and Barbuda can help build a safer, more energy-efficient community while managing their electricity costs more effectively.



Useful Electrical Tips from Wayne's Electrical Services

- Always unplug electrical appliances and gadgets by holding the plug, not the cord, because pulling the cord can damage the electrical connections.
- . Ensure your hands are dry before using an outlet or switch, because you can cause yourself to get an electrical shock
- Try washing full loads of clothes and this will assist in saving electricity because you will be washing less loads
- Try to iron once a week instead of every day because the iron will only have to heat up once initially and that will help lower your electrical consumption
- Make sure your refrigerator door is sealed properly. Air leaks can increase your electricity consumption.
- Avoid leaving unnecessary electrical items on during the day, which will increase your electrical consumption. Items like fans, irons and hair dressing tools can also cause fires.
- If your home requires a transformer to operate appliances and equipment, it is recommended that a qualified electrician be consulted to install a single, appropriate transformer. Using multiple transformers can increase electricity consumption, even when appliances are not in use.



ELECTRICITY SAFETY



Safe Kitchenware: What Every Consumer Should Know

Ms. Dorothy Graham
MSc -Nutrition Consultant

Cooking at home is one of the best ways to care for your health and your family. There are many types of cookware and food-contact materials used in everyday kitchens. However, the cookware we use can also affect food safety. When cookware is heated, small amounts of materials can sometimes be transferred into food. Over time, this may affect your health. Choosing the right cookware and using it properly can help reduce these risks.

This article provides a quick overview of some common cookware and what to look out for when buying, preparing, cooking, and reheating food. A more extensive list of kitchenware materials is provided at the end. So, let's get started.

The most common types of kitchenware are made from aluminum, stainless steel, non-stick materials, and Tupperware (plastic containers). Others include cast iron, glassware, and ceramics. Understanding the different types of cookware can help you make safer and healthier choices in your kitchen. Here are some tips about common kitchenware:

1. Stainless steel is a reliable everyday option for cooking. Look for labels such as **18/8** or **18/10**, as these indicate higher-quality alloys that are durable and non-reactive. Some products may also be labelled as **surgical or medical-grade stainless steel, which offers greater corrosion resistance**. The quality depends on metals such as chromium and nickel, which enhance strength and safety. Avoid products that are rusted, unlabelled, or made from low-quality alloys.



Low-quality alloys contain fewer protective metals or use cheaper substitutes, making them more prone to rusting, corrosion, and rapid wear. They may also allow small amounts of metal to leach into food or drinks, especially when acidic foods are present.

2. **Non-stick cookware** is convenient and easy to clean while using less oil. However, it should not be overheated or used if the surface is scratched or peeling.

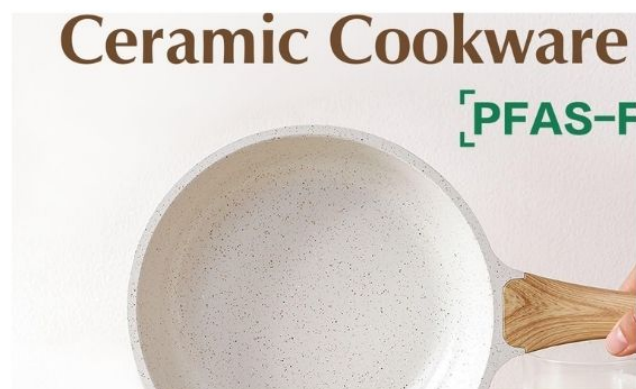


3. **Aluminium cookware** is lightweight and affordable, making it a common household choice. However, it can react with acidic foods, so anodised aluminium is recommended.



3. **Cast iron cookware** retains heat very well and is durable for long-term use. Cookware containing minerals may increase the nutritional value of foods such as iron and copper. Be sure to dry and season with oil, such as vegetable oil, to prevent rusting.

4. **Ceramic cookware** is non-reactive and suitable for baking and everyday use. However, it should be labelled **lead-free** and not used if cracked or chipped.



5. **Tupperware (plastic containers)** is convenient for food storage and everyday use. However, it should be **BPA-free** and not used for reheating unless labelled microwave-safe, as heat can increase the risk of chemicals transferring into food. **BPA (Bisphenol A)** is a chemical used to make certain plastics and resins. It is commonly found in some food containers, water bottles, and the lining of canned foods.



Additional Consumer Cautions

Consumers should be cautious when purchasing very cheap stainless-steel bottles, as some may be made from inferior metals that can leach into beverages, especially acidic drinks. Be cautious of unlabelled products, very low prices, early rust or discolouration, and

any metallic taste in food or beverages. It is best to choose products that are clearly labelled as food-grade

Plastic containers should also be used with care. They can degrade over time and should not be used for hot beverages or for reheating food unless they are labelled microwave safe. Finally, family heirloom pieces may be kept for display, but they should not be used for food preparation or serving if their material safety, including heavy metals and BPA, is unknown.



Here is a more extensive list as promised. Browse the items that are of interest to you. Note the pros and cons and what to look out for

Cookware Types: Quick Guide for Consumers

Cookware Type	✓ Pro	⚠ Con	🔍 What to Look Out For
Stainless steel	Stainless steel is durable and does not react with food.	It can be more expensive than other options. Cheaper options may contain toxic alloys.	Look for 18/8 or 18/10 stainless steel (including surgical-grade) labels and avoid rusted items.
Non-stick (coated)	Non-stick cookware is easy to clean and requires less oil.	The coating can scratch or peel over time. Some contain toxic chemicals that leach with heat.	Avoid high heat and replace it if the surface is damaged.
Aluminium (incl. anodised)	Aluminium cookware is lightweight and affordable.	It can react with acidic foods.	Choose anodised aluminium for safer use. Line aluminium foil with baking sheet to reduce contact with food.
Cast iron	Cast iron retains heat very well and is long-lasting.	It is heavy and can rust if not properly cared for.	Keep dry and properly seasoned with vegetable oil.
Ceramic cookware	Ceramic cookware is non-reactive and good for baking.	It can chip or crack easily.	Ensure it is labelled lead-free and check for damage.



Non-stick



Cast Iron

Cookware Types: Quick Guide for Consumers

Glassware (Pyrex-type)	Glassware does not affect the taste of food.	It can break with sudden temperature changes.	Avoid moving from cold to hot environments quickly.
Wood	Wooden utensils are gentle on cookware surfaces.	They can absorb moisture and bacteria.	Wash and dry thoroughly and replace when worn.
Bamboo	Bamboo utensils are lightweight and eco-friendly.	They can crack or wear overtime.	Purchase bamboo and woodenware from reputable sources. Check for splinters and avoid prolonged soaking.
Earthenware / clay	Earthenware is good for slow cooking and enhances flavour.	Some may contain harmful substances if not certified.	Choose products labelled food-safe and lead-free.
Copper (lined)	Copper provides excellent heat control.	It is expensive and requires proper lining.	Ensure it is lined with a safe material such as stainless steel.
Enamel-coated	Enamel-coated cookware is non-reactive and easy to clean.	It can chip if dropped.	Avoid using chipped cookware.
Silicone	Silicone is flexible and heat-resistant.	It may not withstand very high temperatures.	Use food-grade silicone and avoid direct flame.
Tupperware (plastic)	Plastic containers are convenient for food storage.	Not all are safe for high heat or microwaving.	Use BPA-free products and check microwave-safe labels.
Zinc	Zinc is low-cost and sometimes used in coatings.	It is not suitable for direct cooking.	Avoid using zinc-coated items for cooking food.



Glassware



Wood



Copper



Zinc



Students Applauded at World Consumer Rights Day Awards Ceremony

The creative and analytical talents of students were under the spotlight as the Prices and Consumer Affairs Division hosted its awards ceremony on Monday, 18 May 2026, at the Villa Community Centre, culminating a series of competitions held in celebration of World Consumer Rights Day.

Under the theme "Safe Products, Confident Consumers," primary, secondary, and tertiary students, along with individuals who entered the public category, were honoured for using videography, music, and essays to champion consumer rights and product safety awareness.

Following an evaluation by a panel of judges, Carlon Best, Stevon Gordon, Churchill Norbert, Anique Samuel and Onika Hanyes-Dover, the division officially revealed the outstanding schools that secured top honours:

In the Primary School Jingle Competition, first place was awarded to C.T. Samuel Primary School, while St. Michael's Primary School captured second place.



1st Place: C.T. Samuel Primary School



**2nd Place: St. Michael's Primary School.
(Photo: ABI Insurance)**

The C.T. Samuel Primary School's jingle, "We're Keeping It Safe," promotes tested, quality products and healthy food choices. The upbeat anthem urges consumers to reject expired, unhealthy or untested goods, encourages daily smart, safety-minded decisions, and highlights the link between safe products and community health and wellbeing.

Students from St. Michael's Primary School urged consumers to "Look, ask, check before you pay — know your rights" in their jingle, and called on manufacturers to "make it right," promoting informed purchasing and product accountability.

In the Secondary School Video Competition Christ the King High School won first place.



**Secondary School Video Competition
1st Place: Christ the King High School**

In their video presentation, Kiara Bailey and Kiara Kwenga highlighted a costly mistake made by many consumers: unboxing new electrical appliances and plugging them directly into wall outlets without reading the instruction manual first and failing to verify the voltage requirements of a new device against the electrical output of the wall outlet, specifically checking whether it is configured for 110V or 220V.

To combat this issue, Bailey and Kwenga proposed two practical solutions: Consumers must cultivate the habit of always reading the manufacturer's manual to explicitly confirm the operational voltage of any appliance before introducing it to a power source, and clearly and legibly label outlets with their designated voltage capacity.

For the Essay Competition, participants were required to pen 500–700 words on the topic "How Does Product Safety Impact Consumers in Antigua and Barbuda).



1st Place: Jerlissa Jeremy



2nd Place: Melanie Phillip



**3rd Place: Jammiche Phillip
(Photos: ABI Insurance)**

Orrin Steele, director at the division, commended the students for their imaginative entries. He emphasized that the subject matter tackled by the students is a critical pillar of the economy, as consumer confidence is directly linked to product safety. When products are deemed to be hazardous, they are naturally withdrawn from the market.

The Director further highlighted various everyday products with potential risks that the Division is seeking to highlight, including children's toys recalled due to dangerous materials or lead, counterfeit medicines sold through unverified online sites, and large-scale vehicle recalls resulting from defective airbags, faulty computer systems, and brake failures.

The event was made possible through the robust support of the local business community, which provided a substantial pool of prizes for the winners. The division express gratitude to the sponsors: ABI Insurance, Galley Bay Resort and Spa, Shoul's Toys, Gifts and Housewares, Paperclips, Island Provision, INET, PIC Insurance, A.S. Bryden & Sons Antigua, Townhouse Mega Store, Harper's, Superpower Electronics and Cool & Smooth.



(Photos Courtesy: ABI Insurance)