

Safety Alert

Topic or Equipment

Asbestos in Play Sand - Product Recall

The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) is aware of products available in the UK containing sand contaminated with asbestos. These include several items including play sand that may be found in schools.

If your school has any of the products containing asbestos listed on the OPSS [Product Safety Alerts, Reports and Recalls](#) page, stop using it immediately to prevent any ongoing exposure, and follow the recall advice.

Problem

Asbestos contamination of coloured play sand sold in Hobbycraft

You may have seen recent UK news reports that confirmed that coloured play sand sold in Hobbycraft's "Giant Box of Craft" kit and other related sand products had tested positive for asbestos, following independent laboratory testing commissioned by a concerned parent.

Action

Schools should review their art, craft, and play resources and follow the product recall actions detailed in the links above if affected by this.

As headteacher/head of premises you should:

- Look at the above links and assess whether your premises has any of the identified toy products and or sand products.
- Until you have checked the information on the above links you should cordon off/cover sand products/take out of use and store away any suspect products.
- If you do have any of the identified products on your premises, take them out of use and store away. You will have to arrange disposal of the product by an Environment Agency licensed waste carrier.

(Continued)

Action by	Contact
Headteacher or Head of Premises	
Information	
UK law has banned the import and use of all asbestos since 1999, meaning such products should not reach the UK market, but as asbestos remains in use in other countries, it can on rare occasions still enter supply chains. As a further precaution to reduce risks when purchasing children's play materials: • Purchase from reputable UK/EU suppliers with strong safety compliance. • If buying online know who you are purchasing from, check the contact details on the website or the 3rd party seller details on the online marketplace. • Check for UKCA/CE marks (where applicable), manufacturer details and safety information. Be cautious of products with no traceability. • For mineral-based play materials (e.g., sands, powders) then ask you supplier for further assurance E.g., • Confirmation of country of manufacture • Safety documentation (e.g., material safety data sheets where applicable) • Statements confirming compliance with UK law and absence of asbestos UKATA provided some further information back in December following a major recall of children's coloured play sand in Australia	

NASPM Links/Other References
A product recall has now been issued see Hobbycraft.co.UK: Product recall - Giant Box of Craft and Gov.UK: Product Recall: Hobbycraft Giant Box of Craft (2601-0364) Further information can be found on the OPSS Asbestos in consumer products guidance page. UKATA.org.UK: Understanding asbestos risks in non-traditional products: What schools and organisations need to know For more general advice on product safety when buying toys: YouTube: Buying safe toys