

Toxic Toys - let retailers know how you feel

Many soft plastic toys are made out of PVC (also known as vinyl). Vinyl toys contain chemicals called phthalates to make them soft. Phthalates are liable to cause liver, kidney and testicular damage and the European Commission has warned that they are released in dangerous quantities when children chew vinyl toys for long periods.

Greenpeace will be inviting retailers to remove soft PVC toys for children under three years old from their shelves. This note explains how you can play a part.

Stores we know about that sell hazardous toys:

Extensive research and chemical tests shows that the following stores sell soft PVC toys that leak hazardous chemicals:

The Early Learning Centre
Woolworths
Boots

Mothercare
Toys'R'Us
Hamleys

If you spot soft PVC toys whilst shopping please let the manager know how you feel by writing to them, taking a letter in person or speaking to them. If you discover other stores that should be on the list please let us know by sending a message to editor@uk.greenpeace.org

Suggested points to raise in a letter:

- Soft PVC toys contain chemicals that leak out of them and are liable to be swallowed by a child sucking or chewing the toy.
- Just stopping selling soft PVC teething toys is not enough. Children under three years old are likely to put any toy in their mouth.
- No child should be exposed to even a small amount of a chemical that might be hazardous if it can be avoided.
- Please withdraw all soft PVC toys for children under three from your shelves.

Suggested questions to ask:

- Do you think that children under 3 years old are likely to put PVC toys in their mouths?
- Do you think it is acceptable for small children to swallow chemicals from toys sold in your shop?
- Why don't you tell your customers that some toys sold in this shop are banned in other European countries (Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy and Sweden) because they could be harmful to health?
- Do you intend to remove soft PVC toys for children under three years old from your shelves?

Useful contact information:

Early Learning Centre

Tel. 01793 831300

Mr. Mike France
Managing Director
Early Learning Centre
South Marston Park
Swindon
SN3 4TJ

Mothercare

Tel. 01923 241000

Mr. Greg Tufnell
Managing Director
Mothercare
Cherry Tree Road
Hertfordshire
WD2 5SH

Toys 'R' Us

Tel. 01628 414141

Mr Phillip J Shayer
Merchandise Director
Toys 'R' Us Ltd
Geoffrey house
Vanwall Business Park
Maidenhead
SL6 4UB

Woolworths

Tel. 0171 262 1222

Mr Leo McKee
Managing Director
Woolworths PLC
242 Marylebone Road
London
NW1 6JL

Boots

Tel. 0115 950 6111

Mr. S. G. Russell
Managing Director
Boots the Chemist Ltd
1 Thane Road West
Nottingham
NG2 3AA

Hamleys

Tel. 0171 494 2000

Mr. Simon Burke
Chief Executive
Hamleys of London Ltd
2 Fouberts Place
London
W1V 2AA

Let us know how you get on and how the shops responded or if you discover other hazardous toys not on our lists by sending a message to editor@uk.greenpeace.org

or

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Thank you.