

# Health and Safety Bulletin

2026/01

## Product Recall – Asbestos Contamination in Children’s Toys Information for all Schools/Early Years Providers in Northumberland

Updated June 2026

### Summary

Product recalls have been issued for several sand-containing toys and craft kits from UK retailers since January 2026. The identified products have been tested and found to contain small amounts of asbestos, which is a banned product in the UK. Most of the sand in the recalled products trace to manufacturing in China.

The products in question are mainly available via high street and on-line stores and aren’t found in usual school supply chains, however, checks should be carried out to ensure you have none of the effected products.

There is currently no requirement to take all sand products out of use, or assume that all sand products are contaminated. Schools are only required to act on specific product recall notices and take appropriate action. Whilst it is appreciated that this issue is concerning for staff and parents, **please be assured that UKHSA has confirmed that the health risk is low.**

### General Guidance

Further general guidance has been issued by the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS): [Asbestos in consumer products - GOV.UK.](#), including updated information of disposal methods.

### Required Actions

- Check if you have any of the items listed here: [asbestos - Product Safety Alerts, Reports and Recalls - GOV.UK.](#)
- Further product recalls are expected, **so ensure you have ongoing arrangements in place to check the list on an ongoing basis.** You can use the date range fields to make this easier.
- If you have any of the effected items, stop using the product immediately and follow the instructions given in the individual product recall notice. For further information, or questions, contact the retailer you purchased the item from.
- If you are unable to return the product to the supplier, the OPSS are advising that you should now seek advice on disposal from your commercial waste management

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contractor. It's likely that they will advise that items will now need to be disposed of as 'hazardous waste'. Your asbestos management company may also be able to arrange safe disposal. There is likely to be a cost for disposal of these products. Keep the product bagged/labelled and stored in a secure place until disposal can be arranged.

- NCC maintained schools are requested to complete this [Microsoft Form](#) to record details of effected items and the action they have taken. This can also be used by NCC Corporate Health and Safety Team customers who utilise this service via SLA.

## Further Information / Support

The supplier of the item should be contacted with any queries. The DfE also advise that Citizens Advice can be contacted should further advice be needed.

**NCC Corporate Health and Safety Team customers can contact the team for further advice:**

If your school is in part of the Health and Safety SLA and you wish to discuss the content of this bulletin further or require advice on correct disposal methods, you can contact us.

E: [healthandsafety@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:healthandsafety@northumberland.gov.uk)

T: 01670 623854