

## The Hidden Dangers of Water Beads: What Every Caregiver Should Know

Water beads are easily swallowed, inhaled, or inserted into the nose or ears. Once the beads are exposed to bodily fluids such as saliva, stomach acid or other liquids, they expand inside the body.

**Even when used under adult supervision, water bead products can still be hazardous and cause major injury.**

Due to their gel-like consistency, it is often difficult for doctors to remove the beads. This is dangerous because the longer they remain in the body the larger they grow.

The beads are very difficult to see on traditional x-rays. They are malleable, taking the shape and form of the organ or part of the body where they are located.

### Water Beads: Are They Really Non-Toxic?

The term 'non-toxic' is shockingly unregulated. Though heavily marketed as non-toxic, some **water bead polymer materials are known to contain toxins**. This is confusing, because many water bead products are labeled as non-toxic.

Cases have emerged where children who ingested water beads have been diagnosed with brain injuries such as toxic encephalopathy and other neurological disorders.

### Prioritizing Child Safety: Tips for Toy Purchases and Research

As a concerned parent, it's natural to want to keep your child safe from harm. **However, dangerous toys often slip through regulatory cracks and go unnoticed until it's too late.**

It is highly recommended caregivers perform extra research by looking up "the specific product you plan to purchase" + the words "safety concerns" before allowing children to play with toy products.

Additionally, by reporting product injuries and concerns to **SaferProducts.gov**, you can help prevent future tragedies and ensure that other children don't suffer the same fate.



**Water Beads**  
**Small & Deadly**  
**DANGER!**



## How do I know if my child has been injured by water beads?

Unfortunately, that is part of the problem! The symptoms of water bead injury may be very similar to other conditions.

**Swallowing, inhaling, and/or inserting water beads into the ear or nose requires immediate medical care.**

If your child has any of the following symptoms and there are water beads in your home or at their school, then your child may have swallowed or inhaled the beads (Note: This is not a full list of possible warning signs):

- Gastrointestinal issues: nausea, vomiting, constipation or diarrhea
- Unexplained skin rash
- Weight loss with normal appetite
- Change in motor skills: walking, sitting, standing, etc.
- Trouble breathing or swallowing
- Any new or concerning symptom

It is important for caregivers to tell medical professionals that they have water beads in the home. This can save time as physicians look for clues to what may be causing symptoms in their child.

Sometimes additional diagnostic tools may be needed to see the ingested water beads, such as Ultrasound where the beads can look like cysts, CT scans and scans using contrast. **Children may require surgery to remove the beads from their body.**

Early diagnosis saves lives!

**Find out more by visiting:**

**That Water Bead Lady**



[www.ThatWaterBeadLady.org](http://www.ThatWaterBeadLady.org)



## What Are Water Beads?

Water beads are sold under a number of brand names both in stores and online. They are tiny, less than the size of a grain of rice. Made of gel-like materials that expand in liquids such as water, they can grow from the size of a pinhead to the size of a marble. Jumbo water beads can grow to be the size of a tennis ball!

**That  
Water  
Bead  
Lady**

That Water Bead Lady is a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering families and community members with the knowledge they need to keep their loved ones safe from dangerous consumer products. Our mission is to educate caregivers on the potential dangers of products like water beads and connect them with resources.



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