

That Water Bead Lady

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To Whom It May Concern,

It has come to my attention that you may be using what are called Water Beads. These Water Beads are often marketed and sold under various brand names as Orbeez, Marvel Beads, Chuckle and Roar, Super Absorbent Polymer balls. While these Water Beads are currently being marketed and sold as children's toys used to aid in sensory development, these products were originally sold as agricultural products (to be placed in soil to promote soil absorption and in flower vases).

The beads themselves are made of super-absorbent polymers, which are a class of plastics that expand when they come into contact with fluids such as water. The Poison Control agency has stated that some of these beads can expand to hundreds of times their original size. Many if not most of the beads are marketed as "non toxic", "biodegradable", "eco friendly" these labels are essentially unregulated and can be misleading. Some if not all of the beads are contaminated with potentially dangerous and toxic materials, such as acrylamide. Acrylamide has been found to cause cancer in animals, and can result in muscle weakness, numbness, and other neurological injuries or abnormalities when exposed to humans. According to the International Agency for the Research on Cancer ("IARC"), acrylamide is "probably carcinogenic to humans."

The American Academy of Pediatrics ("AAP") has warned that Water Beads look like candy so children may be tempted to swallow them. One leading pediatric gastroenterologist has warned: "These particular objects can grow bigger as they pass through the intestines, paving the way for obstruction." In addition to the pediatric community, Poison Control has similarly stated that water beads can cause "life-threatening intestinal blockage." In Poison Control's website, the question is posed: "Can water beads kill you?" Poison Control's response was: "Yes." In addition to bowel obstruction, ingestion or inhalation of Water Beads has been associated with numerous incidents involving hospitalization and injury of numerous children. Despite the risk of bowel obstruction and other health hazards, many if not most or all of the warning labels on these products fail to warn about bowel obstruction and other specific health issues.

For all the above reasons, Water Beads are dangerous and pose a risk of serious injury or death to children. Please immediately stop using the Water Beads with my child and at your facility as a whole.

Sincerely,