Asbestos in toys

TÜV Rheinland LGA Products – Information February 2026

In recent weeks, there have been increasing reports in the media about asbestos being found in various products. In particular, asbestos contamination has been detected in play sand and toys containing sand. These findings are cause for concern, as asbestos is a known health risk, especially for children.

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral that can be found as a contaminant or accompanying component in sand pits or mines where sand is extracted, especially quartz sand.

In recent months, asbestos contamination has been detected in various types of play sand and in toys containing this sand. To our knowledge, most of this sand originated in China.

Furthermore, asbestos fibres can be found in minerals and talcum.

If you use these materials in your products, they could be contaminated with asbestos.

The use of products containing asbestos is particularly critical when dust is generated that can be inhaled.

It can be assumed that play sand for sandboxes sold in Europe, e.g. in DIY stores, comes from German and European sand pits. It can be assumed that no sand with relevant amounts of asbestos is mined here.

AFFECTED PRODUCTS

Various products have been affected in recent weeks. The authorities are currently providing information about this and recalls are being issued, e.g.:

- Consumer Advice Centre NRW.
- "Black" list with references to play sand in which the presence of asbestos has been detected

Affected products are:

- Coloured play sand,
- Craft sand,
- Excavation sets,
- Kits containing plaster powder/sand
- Kinetic sand (addition of silicone oils)

POSSIBLE IMPACT ON TOY PRODUCTS

Asbestos is classified as Carc. 1A according to the CLP Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008. Its use is therefore not permitted under the Toy Safety Directive 2009/48/EC, Annex II, Chapter III, Paragraph 3.

OUR SERVICES

The TÜV Rheinland Group is at your disposal to assist you in ensuring product quality and safety. Our experts carry out appropriate tests for asbestos in your products using state-of-the-art analysis methods:

- **Scanning electron microscopy (SEM)**: This method enables high-resolution examination of product samples to detect asbestos fibres.
- **Energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (XRF)**: This technology allows us to analyse the chemical composition of samples and detect asbestos.

Our fast and cost-effective tests help you to ensure the safety of your products and comply with legal requirements.

Information on current legal changes can be found on our homepage at www.tuv.com or https://www.tuv.com/regulations-and-standards/en/

Further technical information is available from:

TÜV Rheinland LGA Products GmbH
Technical Competence Centre Toys

Silja Theiler
Silja.Theiler@de.tuv.com

Tillystraße 2
90431 Nuremberg
Germany

Infobox: Further information on REACH services can also be found at https://www.tuv.com/germany/de/reach.html