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## Popular toys contain toxics and other hazards

### U.S. PIRG'S *Trouble in Toyland* finds dangerous toys on shelves during holiday shopping season

St. Petersburg, FLA. -- This holiday season, watch out for dangerous and toxic toys. Florida PIRG's 33rd annual [Trouble in Toyland](#) report found toxic amounts of boron in slime products and a failure by Amazon to appropriately label choking hazards. Boron can cause nausea, vomiting and other health issues.

"No one should worry about whether or not the toy they're buying is toxic or dangerous. But in 2018, we're still finding hazards in some of the most popular toys. Toy manufacturers must do better to ensure their products are safe before they end up in children's hands and mouths," said **someone else or Bill Newton**, deputy director of Florida Consumer Action Network (FCAN) which released the report in Florida.

For more than 30 years, *Trouble in Toyland* has issued toy safety guidelines and has provided examples of toys currently on store shelves that pose potential safety hazards to small children. Key findings from this year's report include:

- **Hazardous Slime:** A number of popular 'slimes' had toxic levels of boron, likely in the form of borax, up to fifteen times the European Union's limit. [According to the EPA](#), ingesting boron can cause nausea, vomiting, long-term reproductive health issues and can even be fatal.
- **Missing Online Choking Warnings:** In a survey of five search pages for balloons sold on Amazon, U.S. PIRG found no choking hazard labels on 87 percent of the latex balloons marketed to parents of children under 2, an apparent violation of the law. Among children's products, balloons are the [leading cause](#) of suffocation death.
- **Privacy-Invasive Smart Toys:** The report also highlights two smart toys, a robot toy and a tablet, with privacy concerns discovered through an investigation by the Mozilla Foundation. Every year, the potential for smart toys to expose private data becomes a more significant concern.

"Regulators need to determine the appropriate health-based standards to protect children from boron in slime. In the meantime, we want parents to know the risks, so they can supervise their kids accordingly," said **somebody else**.

While there are currently no limits on boron in children's toys in the U.S., the advocacy organization called for placing warning labels on products and a full public hearing to determine safe levels of boron.

In addition to identifying dangerous toys already on store shelves, U.S. PIRG provides a guide on how parents, grandparents and other caretakers can ensure toys are safe and stay updated on recalled toys at [www.ToySafetyTips.org](http://www.ToySafetyTips.org).

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Florida PIRG (Public Interest Research Group) Education Fund, is an independent, non-partisan group that works for consumers and the public interest. Through research, public education and outreach, we serve as counterweights to the influence of powerful special interests that threaten our health, safety or well-being.

Florida Consumer Action Network (FCAN) is a grassroots organization which empowers citizens to influence public policy by organizing and educating in areas where consumer voices are underrepresented.

Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg is a leader in children's health care, combining a legacy of compassionate care focused solely on children since 1926 with the innovation and experience of one of the world's leading health care systems.