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manufacturer, Playworld Systems, has decided to take this issue into its own hands by transforming its entire manufacturing process to eliminate 99.9% of the PVCs that go into its products. Instead, they now use thermoset Polyethylene (PE), a tough and durable environmentally-friendly alternative which can be disposed of effectively and safely 100% of the time.

Playworld Systems is the only national playground equipment manufacturer to offer PVC-free products. Check out this video showcasing the issues: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7CHs6M3DtWE>

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Sandra P. Libby (0 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 8/5/2009 6:37:24 PM

I read the article and every comment here. Many of you have misunderstood the true issue here. I think the article is good because we, as responsible adults, should make every effort to have a wonderful trip to the playground be a great memory in every child's life. Yes they should go often and play lots, make friends, climb, jump, balance, explore, imagine, do it all. Unfortunately there are way to many playgrounds across the country that do not 1. put in equipment that meets the current safety standards 2. install it correctly 3. MAINTAIN IT! 4. educate the adults supervising 5. educate the kids about the hazards to look for-Therefore we are putting our children in danger needlessly! Risk is good! Challenge our children to climb farther, swing higher, but do not neglectfully or intentionally put them in harms way! There are many resources to get information National Program for Playground Safety and National Recreation and Parks Association are two of the best. Get Educated!!!

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nalderman (0 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 7/31/2009 5:27:53 PM

Rubber Mulch In Children's Playgrounds Pose Inherent Dangers

Liz Szabo has written a very good article on the conflict between protecting children from physical injuries on playgrounds and the longer term health problems that may occur from using ground up rubber tires as mulch in these playgrounds.

Although rubber mulch might seem a solution for buffering children's falls, and some might even question that, there are potential inherent long term risks to health with using this product.

Environment and Human Health, Inc. (EHHI) remains very concerned about the ground-up rubber tire mulch that is being promoted all over the country for use in children's playscapes.

EHHI is a nine-member, nonprofit organization composed of physicians, public health professionals and policy experts dedicated to protecting human health from environmental harms. It receives no money from businesses or corporations.

What are the problems with using rubber mulch in playgrounds?

Rubber mulch is made up of ground-up used rubber tires. In some states, rubber tires are considered a "hazardous waste" and in other states they are considered a "special waste." Whichever the case, used rubber tires are not a material that children should play on.

Rubber mulch gets extremely hot in warm weather. The heat causes the toxins in the rubber tire mulch to outgas at an even faster rate than they would in more moderate temperatures. These out-gassing chemicals are then available for the small children to take up either by breathing them in or in some cases playing in the mulch almost like in a sand box. In addition to the chemical exposures, the heat component of hot rubber is very hard for young children to tolerate.

Some of the chemicals that can be found in rubber tires are:

Benzene ♦ a carcinogen, Phthalates a suspected developmental toxicant, PAHs are ♦ suspected cardiovascular or blood toxicant, Manganese ♦ a gastrointestinal or liver toxicant, Carbon Black a carcinogen, Latex ♦ can cause allergic reactions in some people, Benzothiazole a skin and eye irritant, ♦ Butylated hydroxyanisole: a recognized carcinogen, n-hexadecane a skin and eye irritant, ♦ 4-(t-octyl) phenol corrosive and destructive to mucous membranes, and Zinc a heavy metal. There is a great deal of zinc in rubber tires.

Much is made of the lead in the ground up rubber tire mulch, and that is a very important issue, but it should not be talked about exclusively as the problem, as Mary Jean Brown of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has done in this article. There is lead - but there is much more zinc in rubber mulch than lead and zinc too is a heavy metal. As well there are many other toxic chemicals that have been listed above and have the potential to cause much harm to children.

The companies producing and selling this product do not explain where the rubber mulch comes from or the dangers it presents. Rubber tires that have always been so hard to dispose of are now being turned into a profitable industry - but profits gained at our nation's children's expense.

Recycling is good - but there are certain things that should not be recycled. We should not recycle asbestos, we should not recycle lead, and we certainly should not be recycling rubber tires where children play.

Nancy Alderman, President

Environment and Human Health, Inc.
<http://www.ehhi.org>

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Erzebet (0 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 7/31/2009 1:59:23 PM

Let's remember that 2-year-olds are exactly the ones who need nannies. I actually found this article helpful. If I have a choice at the hardware store when setting up a child's playground, I think I'll take a minute to read the label now and choose the wood chips that say "arsenic-free." What's so awful about that? And the article wasn't talking about 200,000 kids with boo-boos. These were 200,000 kids at the emergency room. Why not put down a couple extra inches of wood chips, if it could save your kid from a concussion or fracture?

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bluebuhda (0 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 7/31/2009 12:51:38 PM

yes bubble wrap those kids keep em safe so when they get older uncle sammy can kill them

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shadow98 (0 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 7/31/2009 12:42:22 PM

In the next decade or two, we have no Olympic games, no Extreme games, because all of the children are afraid to get hurt, to dare to do anything.

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Muttley2010 (3 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 7/31/2009 12:36:30 PM

This Just In...A Class-Action lawsuit has been filed in court against Gravity. The lawsuit contends that Gravity knowingly and intentionally caused over 154,000 of the reported 200,000 injuries resulting in emergency room visits last year.

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bandolph (7 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 7/31/2009 9:28:47 AM

I will say that I wish they had safer playgrounds when I was a lad. As it is I have lived 45 years with out a entire elbow. 4 surgeries, lifetime of painkillers and no hope of it ever being healthy. Excluded from school athletic activities, military service and a choice of my own employment. All because one kid pushed me off a slide shattering my elbow on the pavement. Not fun to know when your 5 years old that you are now crippled and your choices in life are now limited. But hell its only children we are trying to protect huh..

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theseif (0 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 7/31/2009 9:27:41 AM

If I remember correctly, it's always been impossible for kids to play normally without getting a boo-boo once in a while. It's called "life".

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paul2 (0 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 7/31/2009 8:52:50 AM

Get rid of playgrounds, wrap the kid in bubble wrap and stuff him (or her) into the closet,problem solved. Sounds like a lot of pretty useless stats to me. If you don't get bruises or road rash you ain't having fun.

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