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CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY ALERT

Asbestos/Lead
Consulting

Mold
Water
Damage

IAQ/IH

OSHA/EPA
Compliance

Phase I/II
Soils
Groundwater

Hazardous
Materials

Brownfields
Disaster Damaged
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Historical
Preservation

Emergency
Response

Remediation
Restoration

When in Doubt, Throw it OUT! Toys, Bracelets, Pendants...Made in China

Lead still continues to be imported to the US in a variety of toys and painted products. In January, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) announced the voluntary recall of about 240,000 Big Rex and Friends Cloth Books sold at Barnes and Noble, Toys R US, Amazon, Borders Books and other retailers.

Cadmium (even more toxic than lead) has just been found in high levels in children's bracelets and pendants sold at Walmart and the jewelry chain Claires. The CPSC is investigating, Walmart has already pulled many of these suspect items from their shelves.

Why are these items a problem?

Both lead and cadmium are soft metals. Handling, sucking, or biting these items can release these poisons on the hands of children or directly into the mouth. Both are cumulative poisons which build up over time and can hinder brain development. Cadmium exposure is also linked to cancer.

What should a parent, day care, pre-school, elementary school do?

- 1) Expect the metal contaminated children's toy of the month to continue. Anticipate worse case scenarios.
- 2) The Non-profit Center of Environmental Health recommends "throw away all heavy metal jewelry with the exception of fine jewelry such as gold or silver. Use cloth or leather jewelry for children". The cost to test items for lead or cadmium exceeds the cost of items.
- 3) Frequently wash the hands of your child. The hands/fingers of young children always end up in their mouths.
- 4) Discourage children from sucking or biting jewelry or metal toy items.
- 5) Sign up for the CSPC Email Alert at <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prerel.html> for a list of recalled or dangerous products. Keep current on items of concern. The CSPC link for recalled items has been added to AET's website.

AET's May 2009 Newsletter identifies *6 things you can do to protect your family* from lead poison associated with lead-based paint.

Keep yourself and your business up-to-date on the *latest environmental issues*.
Put yourself on AET's Newsletter mailing list (email: e.sutherland@aetinc.biz).

Make AET your first point of contact for your environmental consulting needs.
Call (800-9696-AET).