

How safe are slime toys sold in the EU?



National market surveillance authorities collaborated in a product safety campaign, funded by the European Commission, to test selected children's slime toys sold on their markets for compliance with EU rules and standards.



What was tested?

180 samples of slime toys, bought online and in physical stores in **14 countries**, were analysed in an accredited laboratory in the EU. Laboratory tests included the risk of migration (leaching) of 19 materials, including boron, from the slime. Labelling and marking were verified by the relevant national authorities.



What should you do?

- **Be safe**, wash hands;
- **Buy** slime only from reputable brands and sellers;
- **Check** [Safety Gate](#) if problems have been reported for the slime toy you want to buy;
- **Report** safety issues or accidents with the product to your consumer protection authority on [Consumer Safety Gateway](#).



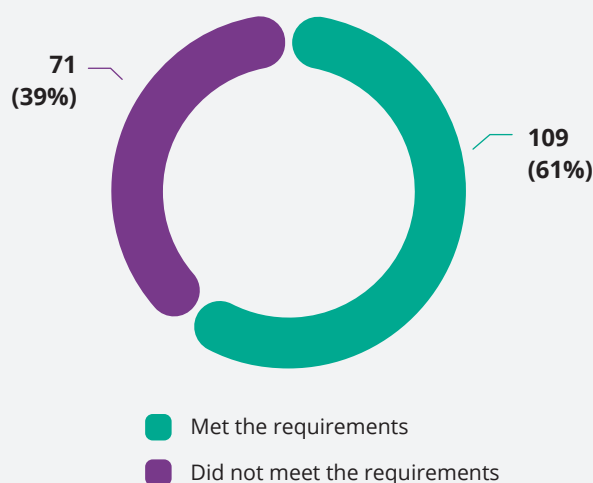
Test results

47 out of 180 samples failed to meet the testing requirements: 46 failed the boron migration test and 1 failed the lead migration test.

One concern is that manufacturers could deliberately be using more boron to achieve desired visco-elastic properties, despite regulations prohibiting this.

50 out of 180 samples failed requirements for warnings, markings and instructions that have to be supplied with the products.

All tests combined, **39%** of the samples tested did not meet at least one of the testing requirements.





What are the risks?

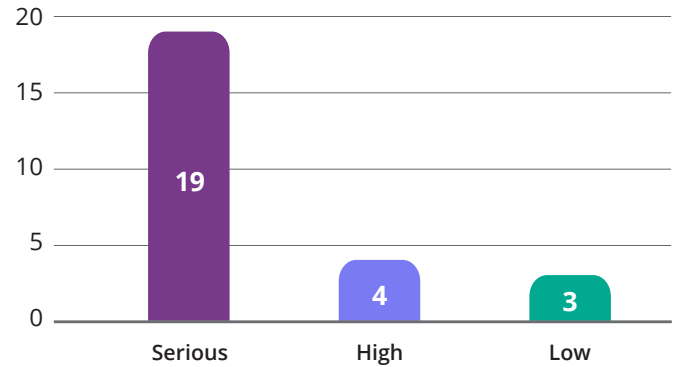
Slime toys contain boron, which helps create the stretchy and gooey texture that make them fun to handle.

High concentrations of boron can harm children's reproductive organs and can cause skin or respiratory system irritation. Additional risks include choking and/or ingestion.



What did national authorities do?

19 of the failures were assessed as posing a **serious risk**, four a high risk, and three a low risk.



Notifications for **24** products considered harmful were posted on [Safety Gate](#), the EU's rapid alert system for dangerous non-food products. The manufacturers of these products were instructed to:

- recall their products from consumers;
- withdraw them from the market;
- stop further sales;
- correct shortcomings with labels, warnings and instructions.



Scan the QR code for the detailed report and for more information