

NOTICE

Reference : CPSO-130723-09E
Date : 13 July 2023
To : Educators in pre-schools and primary schools
Subject : Notice on hazards posed by magnetic toys, water beads and button batteries

Hazards posed by toys that do not meet safety standards

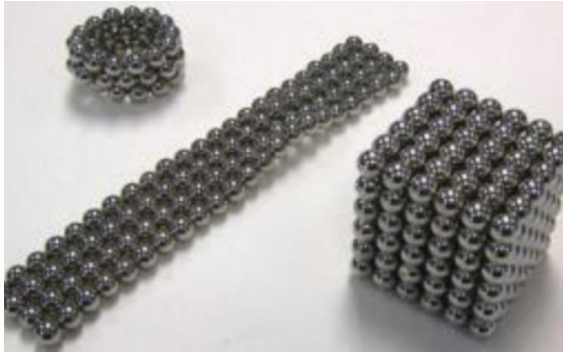
General consumer goods, such as toys and children's products, are required to meet applicable safety standards formulated or adopted and published by international standards bodies and organisations. Non-compliant toys should not be supplied or sold.

This notice highlights the potential safety hazards posed by three categories of toys that do not comply with toy safety standards: i) **magnetic ball toys**; ii) **water beads**; and iii) electric toys containing **button batteries that are improperly secured** (e.g. the button batteries are accessible without the aid of a tool or through a single action).



Educators are advised to keep a lookout and ensure that these three categories of toys are not made accessible to children at educational institutes. Educators are also encouraged to avoid using magnetic ball toys and water beads as sensory toys for children. Button batteries should also be kept out of reach of children, and electronic devices containing button batteries should be properly secured (e.g. accessible only with the aid of a tool) if they are made accessible to children.

Educators are also advised to warn children, parents or caregivers of the hazards posed by these three types of products.

Details on the safety hazards of these three items are as follows.

No.	Item	Hazard
1	Magnetic ball toys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Magnetic ball toys are small but powerful, with a high magnetic flux.• If two or more pieces are swallowed, they can cause serious harm or death by pinching or perforating the intestines and will require surgery for removal.
2	Water beads / jelly beads / gel beads / water orbs / hydro orbs / orbeez	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water beads are very small and absorb liquid slowly to expand. Over time, they can expand to hundreds of times their initial size.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If swallowed by young children, even one expanded water bead can cause intestinal obstruction that may require surgery to remove.
3	Button batteries / coin batteries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If swallowed, a button battery can react with saliva and trigger a chemical reaction that can cause severe burns to the child's throat and internal organs, potentially leading to death.

For further enquiries, please contact the Consumer Product Safety Office (CPSO) at 6898 1800, email to consumerproductsafety@enterprisesg.gov.sg or visit our website at <https://www.consumerproductsafety.gov.sg/>.

About the Consumer Product Safety Office (CPSO):
The CPSO administers the Consumer Protection (Consumer Goods Safety Requirements) Regulations (CGSR), which regulates general consumer products such as toys and children's products.

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The Consumer Product Safety Office
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