
To:	Chief Medical Officers of Health, Hospital Specialists, Regional Occupational Health teams, Primary Care providers, After-Hours Centres, Emergency Departments, Urgent Care providers, HealthPathways, Healthline, Ka Ora, HealthEd, Healthify, NPHS national and regional services, regional Comms Leads including Hauora Māori & Pacific Health, Office of the Director of Public Health (Manatū Hauora), PHF-Science, National Poison Centre.
From:	Dr Matthew Reid, Public Health Medicine Specialist Medical Officer of Health, NPHS
Date:	12/11/2025
Title:	Public health advisory – recall of sand products containing asbestos

Please share the following information with relevant staff in your organisation.

Public health advisory – recall of sand products containing asbestos

Summary

Public health agencies have been informed by the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) that two imported coloured sand products available for sale in New Zealand could contain asbestos fibres. In response, we are working at pace with them and other government agencies to manage any wider risk to the public. The company are undertaking a voluntary [recall of the affected products](#), which are sold as ‘*EC Rainbow Sand*’ (1.3kg) and ‘*Creatistics Coloured Sand*’ (1kg). These products are known to be used by children and in early childhood settings. *(See images below).*

Health risks from asbestos

While we are not able to quantify the risk to people’s health, we are advising people to take a precautionary approach and to follow the MBIE advice below for safe storage and removal.

Asbestos is a known carcinogen when inhaled (or potentially when ingested). The presence of asbestos in these products could present a potentially serious health risk, so agencies are taking a cautious approach.

The potential impact of asbestos exposure on a person’s health occurs over the long term. This means people do not need to take any immediate steps to manage their health if they, or their children, have been exposed to these products, except to avoid or eliminate further exposure to this sand product. Stopping or reducing smoking or any second-hand smoke is also important as cigarette smoke increases the risk after exposure to asbestos.

We appreciate that the presence of asbestos in products that are used by children may cause worry for parents and caregivers. We are working rapidly with other agencies to gain a better understanding of the risk posed by these products and will share more information as soon as it is available.

Health advice

If people need immediate health advice, they can call Healthline anytime on 0800 611 116. More information about asbestos and your health can be found on [info.health/asbestos](https://www.health.govt.nz/info.health/asbestos).

MBIE immediate advice for consumers

- Stop using the product immediately.
- Place the sand in a sealed container and store it securely away from people.
- Do not dispose of the product in general waste. WorkSafe strongly recommends engaging a Class A licensed asbestos removalist for safe disposal. A list of licensed removalists can be [found on the WorkSafe website](#).
- Once secure, we encourage people to reach out to the supplier to organise a refund under the Consumer Guarantees Act.

