

## Dangerous Toy Balloons

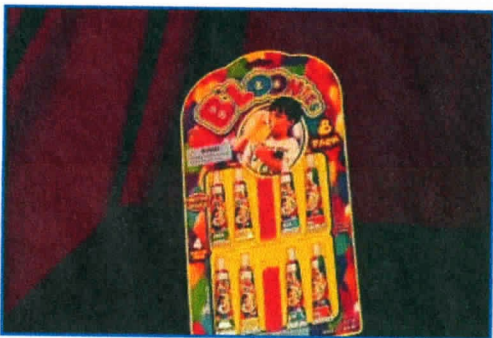
by Kristen Castillo ~ May 4th, 2009. Filed under: [Consumer](#), [investigative](#).

[In a recent story](#), the 10News I-Team reported on a children's toy that contains dangerous chemicals. Balloon blowing kits are sold under a variety of names including B'loonies, Bubbles Plastic and Bubble Balloons.

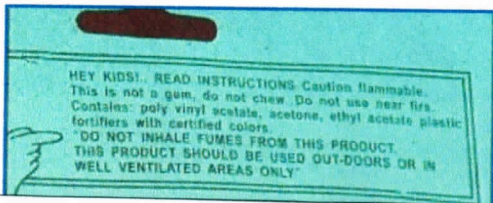


We had one of the kits, balloons plastic lab tested and found it contains benzene, a chemical the [Environmental Protection Agency](#) says is a known [carcinogen](#). It's linked to leukemia.

We contacted the maker of B'loonies. They're Jacksonville, Florida based JA-RU, but they didn't have comment.



We would have contacted the manufacturers of the other balloon kits, but guess what? Their packaging only says "Made in China" and "Made in Taiwan." It doesn't list any contact information, least of all a manufacturer, distributor or importer's name. Turns out, that's a violation of U.S. law.



According to Scott Wolfson of the [Consumer Product Safety Commission](#): "The law specifically requires that the name and place of business of the manufacturer, packer, distributor or seller be on the product."

Further, Wolfson says, "CPSC is empowered to follow-up on cases when a product contains benzene. Reducing children's exposure to harmful chemicals is important to CPSC and has been part of our work over the past 35 years."

The balloon kits are banned in Canada and Australia for safety concerns regarding inhaling the chemicals while playing with the toy. The [ban](#) has been in effect in Canada since 1973. [Australia's ban](#) has been in effect since 1990.

The consumer toy safety group [W.A.T.C.H.](#) lists the B'Loonies balloon toy on its 2007 dangerous toys list for the product's flammability and chemical ingestion concerns.

The 10News I-Team interviewed Dr. Lee Cantrell, director of San Diego Division of [California Poison Control System](#). He said "Children have tried using these to get high... solvent abuse in general is a nationwide problem and has been for decades. These types of products are readily attainable and they are associated with a high degree of toxicity depending on the substance, and how frequently the person uses them."

This isn't the first time the [10News I-Team](#) has found dangerous products for sale. During the past two years, we reported how a [Los Angeles company](#) imported 80,000 tubes of generic toothpaste, called Cooldent, from China to the U.S. even though it contained diethylene glycol (DEG), also known as diglycol, which is poisonous. [In February 2009](#), the company, Selective Imports, plead no contest and agreed to pay \$33,000 to a Los Angeles charity.

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