



February 17, 2016

Crumb Rubber Concerns

Recently, three agencies of the U.S. government—the Environmental Protection Agency, the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—announced their collaboration on a joint study to settle any debate on the topic of artificial turf. We felt it important to address make clear our stance, should you have any concerns:

For background, this not an especially new issue. It first surfaced in 2008 and receded from the public eye when a number of peer-reviewed scientific studies demonstrated no connection between artificial turf fields and health risks. The issue was revived, however in 2014, when NBC News ran a segment (and another this past September) implying teenage soccer players were getting cancer from playing on synthetic turf—all the while noting throughout that there was no evidence of any such connection. ESPN ran a similar segment, and these pieces have brought new attention to the topic despite the lack of any new evidence or science.

It is important to note that through dozens of scientific studies, including peer-reviewed academic analyses and federal and state government reports, the science has shown very clearly no connection between these fields and cancer or other health issues. The suggestion that this issue has not been studied, or has been studied only in a limited way, is simply false. A few examples include:

- The Connecticut Department of Public Health found “...no support for a finding of elevated cancer risk from inhalation or ingestion of chemicals derived from recycled tires used on artificial turf fields”.
- The Massachusetts Department of Public Health stated that “...scientific literature continues to suggest that exposure opportunities to artificial turf fields are generally not expected to result in health effects”.
- The Washington Department of Public Health said, “A public health risk appears unlikely based on the available research and data we have reviewed.”

Furthermore, reports in the media have claimed that bits of recycled tires have exposed children to dangerous chemicals as a point of concern. This is misleading without context and without baselines, especially given that we all eat, drink, and breathe trace levels of chemicals in our daily lives. Our industry voluntarily ensures the levels of any chemicals in synthetic turf fields are lower than the Consumer Products Safety Commission’s standards for children’s toys and the Environmental Protection Agency’s safe standards for urban and rural soils.



As we have consistently stated in the past, we fully support additional research and transparency, and given the volume of scientific research already available that clearly shows artificial turf fields and playgrounds with crumb rubber infill are safe and have no link to any health issues—we hope this study will settle the matter once and for all.

For additional information on the science, you should feel free to visit the Safe Fields Alliance website: www.safefieldsalliance.com

Regards,

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