



SAFETY ALERT

July 2026

Squishy Dumpling Toys

This safety alert is designed to notify all schools, early years providers, and parents of a product recall involving the above toys which do not meet the requirements of the Toys (Safety) Regulations 2011.

Product Recall

Information relating to the product recall can be found on the Government's Office for Product Safety and Standards website here - <https://www.gov.uk/product-safety-alerts-reports-recalls/product-recall-squeezy-dumplings-2606-0196>

What are Squishy Dumplings?

Squishy Dumplings have become a viral craze after becoming popular on social media. They are shaped like bao buns and part of their appeal is collecting ultra-rare shiny versions. These toys are typically sold in small basket-style pots, contain a single soft dumpling and have no identifying markings. While these cheaper squishy toys may look harmless, they could pose a hidden risk to children.

Why are these products being recalled?

Squishy Dumplings are potentially toxic. The product presents a serious chemical risk because the outer layer contains an excess concentration of benzene which is carcinogenic. If inhaled, benzene can cause irritation to the eyes, nose and throat. Exposure to large amounts may also cause a burning feeling throughout the digestive tract and skin irritation. Improvements are also required to product labelling and marking.

The Viral Trend

Squishy Dumplings have also become the focus of a dangerous social media trend which



involves them being encouraged to heat the toys in a microwave to make them softer and more elastic. This has led to some instances of the toys bursting/leaking and causing burns to children from the gel which can become extremely hot, including a 10-year-old whose mother feared she could be [scarred for life after her face was scalded](#).

School leaders and parents need to be made aware of this trend, which is being predominantly shared on TikTok, Instagram and YouTube. ROSPA have urged parents and carers to talk to children about the dangers of copying online trends and to reinforce that microwaves are not toys.



What should I do if I have bought one of these products?

Firstly, check the product for strong chemical odours and determine whether the toys bear essential labels such as UKCA or CE markings, manufacturer details and safety instructions. Products without this information, or those with a strong smell, may pose a risk to children.

The potentially dangerous toys are unbranded and have not gone through the usual safety checks. Trading Standards has advised people to check any toy they buy bears the name and address of a UK-based importer or EU-based manufacturer. They should also have a mandatory "CE" or "UKCA" marking, which shows the toy has passed stringent safety legislation.

Owners who have purchased these unsafe products are advised to stop using them immediately, ensuring they are kept out of reach of children. Anyone who has purchased a potentially unsafe item or who has concerns about products being sold should report this via the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 0808 223 1133.

Advice for Schools and Early Years Providers

Rather than a blanket ban it may be more prudent to educate parents by sending out some correspondence (including a copy of this safety alert) and discouraging them from being brought into school. If staff find any of these, they should be confiscated, as part of your general duty of care to protect pupils Health, Safety and Welfare.

More information on the product recall for Squishy Dumplings can be found [here](#). For further advice on this safety alert or any other Health and Safety issues, please contact the Health and Safety team via email or by telephone on 01422 393067. Alternatively, you can visit our document library for guidance.