

Technical annex: results of slime tests carried out by national consumer organisations member of BEUC and ANEC

What is the problem? Why does it matter to consumers?

Children are a vulnerable group in society because they are often unaware of the dangers they face or because proportionally to their age, they are for instance more exposed to dangerous chemicals compared to adults.

This can be the case with slime toys containing excessive amounts of boron, a substance that is added to give slime a gelatinous texture but which is subject to the European Toy Safety Directive 2009/48/EC¹ and to the European standard EN 71-3-2013. Migration limit values depend on the firmness of the product: 300mg/Kg for liquid or sticky toy material, and 1200mg/kg for dry, brittle, powder-like or pliable toy material. All tests by consumer organisations were done considering these requirements.



Although some manufacturers claimed that their product should officially be declared a putty, not a slime and that the upper limit values should consequently apply, it should however be noted that the guidance document² on the Toy Safety Directive unequivocally states that slime is a sticky material.

Slime toys found non-compliant by AK Oberösterreich in November 2018 (Austria)

Out of 6 products tested, 4 were found non-compliant³

	Manufacturer	Bought in/on	Origin	Price	Measured level of boron in mg/kg	risk assessment (RAPEX risk levels)
Furzschleim	Coppenrath Verlag (DE)	Haberkorn	Not specified	3.75	8775	serious health risk
Jupiter Slime malleabile Planeti	Out of the blue KG (DE)	Thalia	China	2.99	1162	low to high health risk
Sellmando® Schleim	Sellmando (DE)	Amazon.de	China	9,62 including shipping	1027	low to high health risk
gooZooKa Schleim im Ölfass	CKEU LTD, UK (TEDI)	Tedi	China	1.50	647	low to high health risk

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32009L0048&from=EN>

² <https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/16183/attachments/1/translations/en/renditions/pdf>

³ See article

https://ooe.arbeiterkammer.at/service/testsundpreisvergleiche/tests/Furzschleim_kann_Gesundheit_gefaehrden.html#

Slime toys found non-compliant by Forbrugerrådet Taenk in October 2018 (Denmark)

Out of 15 products tested, 4 were found non-compliant⁴

 Forbrugerrådet Tænk Danish Consumer Council
Dino world - Depesche/Motto
Vulkan slim med dino - VN legetøj
Dino World Putty – Sunttoy AB
Noise putty - LG Imports

Slime toys found non-compliant by UFC-Que Choisir in September 2018 (France)

Out of 13 products tested, 3 were found non-compliant⁵

NB: quality is indicated with pictograms, from three stars (very good) to double squares (bad)

	Price	UFC-Que Choisir evaluation	Migration limit for boron in mg/kg (as specified in legislation)	Measured level of boron in mg/kg
BARREL-O-SLIME Caution	3,77	■ ■	300	4400
Créat Pat' La pâte incroyable	8,99	■ ■	1200	4269
Pâte intelligente Pacific Surf	14,90	■ ■	1200	2297

Slime toys found non-compliant by Stiftung Warentest in November 2018 (Germany)

Out of 5 products tested, 5 were found non-compliant⁶

	Price	Evaluation
Cosoro - Kristall Knete Set	13€	Released twice as much boron as allowed
SuSenGo – Super Slime Set	25€	Released more than twice as much boron as allowed
iBase Toy - Glitzernder Glibber	12.60€	Released three times more boron than allowed
Jim's Store - Kinder Spielzeug Schleim	11€	Released more than three times boron than allowed
Vikilulu – Crystal Slime	11€	Released more than three times boron than allowed.

⁴ See article <https://kemi.taenk.dk/bliv-groennere/test-slime-toys-release-unwanted-chemicals>

⁵ See article <https://www.quechoisir.org/comparatif-slimes-n58705/>

⁶ See article <https://www.test.de/Spielschleim-Borsaure-in-allen-geprueften-Slime-Produkten-5391703-0/>

Slime toys found non-compliant by Altroconsumo in June 2018 (Italy)

Out of 17 products tested, 6 were found non-compliant⁷

NB: quality is indicated with a number of stars, from one (very bad) to five (excellent).

 ALTROCONSUMO Il tuo punto di forza	Price (Feb. 2018)	Color	Recommended age by manufacturer	Migration of substances	Migration limit value for boron in mg/kg (as specified in legislation)	Measured level of boron in mg/kg	Phthalates	Solvents
BARREL-O-SLIME Caution	3	blu	3+	*	300	4473	****	****
DIRAMIX Squishy Pasta Magica	3,50	verde con granuli	8+	*	1200	1578	****	****
DYNIT Mangia Slime	2,50	rosso	3+	*	300	657	****	****
ORRBIX TWISTI Slime 2in1	2,50	arancione con granuli	3+	*	300	978	****	****
PUSH BALL	2,99	rosso	3+	*	300	374	****	****
SKIFIDOL Pasta Gummy	2,50	verde	8+	*	1200	1400	****	****

Slime toys found non-compliant by OCU in June 2018 (Spain)

Out of 10 products tested, 2 were found non-compliant⁸

 OCU La fuerza de tus decisiones	Price	Level of boron above EU limits
Fluffy Slime	3,16€/unit	4 times above the EU limit
Barrel-O-Slime Caution	1,98€/unit	14 times above the EU limit

⁷ See PDF copy of the article in annex (below link is for subscribed members only)

<https://www.altroconsumo.it/errore/403?returnurl=%252fcerca%253fkeyword%253dslime%2526pageIndex%253d1%2526startFrom%253d0>

⁸ See PDF copy of the article in annex (below link is for subscribed members only)

<https://www.ocu.org/errors/403?returnurl=%252fbuscar%253fkeyword%253dslime%2526pageIndex%253d1%2526startFrom%253d0>

Slime toys found non-compliant by Consumentenbond in November 2018 (NL)

Out of 10 products tested, 3 were found non-compliant⁹

 consumentenbond	Article Item	Importer	Found / bought at
Putty XXL	Item No 620561	Toys Amsterdam	Intertoys
Whoopee Putty	artikelnr. 35685Z	Toi Toys Eindhoven	Blokker
Fluffy slime	Not specified	Not specified	bol.com via FluffySlimeShop

Slime toys found non-compliant by Which? (United Kingdom)

Out of 11 products tested in July 2018, 8 were found non-compliant¹⁰

	Bought in/on	Supplier/manufacturer	Measured level of boron (mg/kg)
Jupiter Juice (Pink)	Amazon	Toysmith	1400
Fluffy Slime (Pink)	Amazon	CCINEE	1000
Crystal Slime Magic Clay (Pink)	Amazon	Cosoro Dodolu	980
Mini Bucket Putty (Green)	Amazon	Baker Ross	930
Slime Toy (Purple)	Amazon	iBase Toy	860
Fluffy Slime (Blue)	Amazon	LOYO	730
Brezeh Free Slime Toy (Orange)	Amazon	Brezeh	560
My Fluffy Slime (Green)	Amazon	Virtuotrade	560

Another test carried out in December on 13 slimes found another 6 non-compliant products¹¹

DIY slime kit	Amazon	Essenson	Purple 1400mg, yellow 1300mg, green 990mg, red 980mg
Frootiputti (orange)	Hamleys	Goobands	1200

⁹ See article <https://www.consumentenbond.nl/kind-en-veiligheid/slime-test>

¹⁰ See article <https://www.which.co.uk/news/2018/07/childrens-toy-slime-on-sale-with-up-to-four-times-eu-safety-limit-of-potentially-unsafe-chemical/>

¹¹ See article <https://www.which.co.uk/news/2018/12/hamleys-smyths-and-argos-sell-slimes-containing-chemicals-up-to-four-times-higher-than-eu-safety-limit/>

TicTock Fluffy Slime (pink)	Amazon	ME Life	970
Ghostbuster slime (green)	Smyths	HGL	950
Glossy slime (pink)	eBay	Jexybox	550
Fun Foam (green)	Argos	Zuru Oosh	1700

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