



Taima Zone Indoor Activity Centres Ltd and Orca Coast Playgrounds certify that your child is playing on the safest climbing structure in the area! - Our tremendous climbing structure is completely **free of Lead and Phthalates**.

**Lead & Phthalates have no business in toys and other kid's products** due to their potential for serious health impacts on kids and here's why.  
(Source: A Toxic-Free Legacy Coalition Fact Sheet)

### **Chemicals Don't Always Stay in the Products**

Toys and other children's products can contain a variety of chemicals of concern, especially as the chemicals are not always chemically bound to the products. When children put these products into their mouths, some of these chemicals may enter their bodies through contact with saliva. Some chemicals may also be released directly into the air and house dust that children breathe.

Because children's bodies are growing and developing, they are more vulnerable to the effects of toxic chemicals than adults. Even small amounts of a chemical can impact a child's ability to reach his or her full potential. The presence of chemicals has been linked to harmful health and developmental impacts for children.

### **Lead**

Lead is a heavy metal that is used in a wide variety of children's products. It is often used as a stabilizer in PVC/vinyl products and for pigmentation in paint, rubber, plastics, and ceramics. Lead was detected in 35% of the approximately 1,200 toys and kid's products recently tested by the Washington Toxics Coalition, the Toxic-Free Legacy Coalition and many other environmental health organizations ([www.HealthyToys.org](http://www.HealthyToys.org)). 17% of the products had lead levels above the 600 parts per million (ppm) federal recall standard used for lead paint.

### *Children's Health Concerns:*

- Lead impacts brain development, causing learning and developmental problems. Impacts may include decreased IQ scores, shorter attention spans, and delayed learning. When children are exposed to lead, the developmental and nervous system consequences of lead exposure are irreversible.

- Scientists have found there is no safe level of lead for children—even the smallest amount affects children’s ability to learn. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that lead in toys and children’s products not exceed 40 ppm, a trace amount.

### **Phthalates**

Phthalates are a group of chemicals used in many plastics and personal care products, as well as in a wide range of industrial applications. In many plastics, especially PVC/vinyl products, phthalates are used as a softening agent to make the plastic flexible and more durable. In personal care products, including lotions, shampoos, and other products made for children, phthalates are used as fragrance carriers. Phthalates are often added to nail polish as an anti-chipping agent.

#### *Children’s Health Concerns:*

- Research studies in animals and humans have found that some phthalates can disturb normal hormonal processes, often at low levels of exposure. Such hormone disrupting chemicals pose a special risk to children, whose bodies are still developing through processes controlled by hormones. Exposures may produce developmental defects or increase the risk of diseases such as cancer later in life.
- Exposure to phthalates has been linked to altered levels of reproductive hormones in baby boys.
- DINP and other phthalates are commonly used as additives in plastic toys. Studies have demonstrated possible links between DINP and adverse impacts on the reproductive system, kidneys, liver, and blood.
- Phthalates are in our kid’s bodies. Human testing by the federal government finds phthalates in almost all of the population, with the highest levels in children ages 6 to 11 years and in women.