

**From:** [Hattelid, Kristina](#)  
**To:** [Matheson, Joanna](#); [Babich, Michael](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Rubber mulch on playgrounds  
**Date:** Thursday, October 23, 2014 12:58:55 PM  
**Attachments:** [HERA.2003.Finley.latex.allerg.pdf](#)

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Good point, though. Some people have raised latex as a potential issue, although, to my knowledge, no study has uncovered evidence of health effects due to latex.

I attached a paper, but it's not exactly on point.

Kris  
301.504.7306

**From:** Matheson, Joanna  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 23, 2014 12:48 PM  
**To:** Hattelid, Kristina; Babich, Michael  
**Subject:** RE: Rubber mulch on playgrounds

I thought perhaps it might have also come up in the latex petition (due to the natural rubber latex, rubber accelerators, etc.) but found no reference to it in the briefing package.

**From:** Hattelid, Kristina  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 23, 2014 12:45 PM  
**To:** Babich, Michael; Matheson, Joanna  
**Subject:** RE: Rubber mulch on playgrounds

We have not done formal assessment, but we have responded to a few consumer inquiries over the years, based on the available info. I have a couple papers related to playgrounds, which I've attached. There is some overlap in the playground and turf literature because rubber is common to both situations.

Kris  
301.504.7306

**From:** Babich, Michael  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 23, 2014 12:30 PM  
**To:** Matheson, Joanna; Hattelid, Kristina  
**Subject:** FW: Rubber mulch on playgrounds

Do you know if HS has ever looked at the toxicity of rubber mulch, as on playgrounds? I haven't found anything in our files.

**From:** Recht, Joel  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 23, 2014 12:06 PM  
**To:** Davis, Patty  
**Cc:** Wolfson, Scott; Babich, Michael  
**Subject:** RE: Rubber mulch on playgrounds

I suspect they are talking about the health effects from rubber additives, rather than the long-bone injury relationship. I'm copying Mike Babich to address that side.

Joel

**From:** Davis, Patty  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 23, 2014 11:46 AM  
**To:** Recht, Joel  
**Cc:** Wolfson, Scott  
**Subject:** FW: Rubber mulch on playgrounds

Have we looked at the safety of rubber mulch Joel? Do we have advice for consumers about it?

**From:** Wolfson, Scott  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 23, 2014 11:45 AM  
**To:** Davis, Patty  
**Subject:** RE: Rubber mulch on playgrounds

Let's get EXHR's opinion.

**From:** Davis, Patty  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 23, 2014 10:10 AM  
**To:** Wolfson, Scott  
**Subject:** Rubber mulch on playgrounds

What are we saying about rubber mulch? She's not talking about crumb rubber. But I'm wondering if the issue has any parallels.

**From:** [EmailForm@Cpsc.gov](mailto:EmailForm@Cpsc.gov) [<mailto:EmailForm@Cpsc.gov>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 21, 2014 12:05 AM  
**To:** Center, Information  
**Subject:** Message from Email Form

Name = (b)(6) Organization/Affiliation = Daytime Phone = (b)(6) E-mail address = (b)(6) Message = Hi, Hi, Hi, I have some questions regarding tire mulch, which is used as playground surface covering. Robber mulch release bad smell under hot sun. Some study shows, Robber mulch contains harsh chemical, and could harm kids. I see rubber mulch is appropriate surfacing at CPSC public playground hand book. I am worried rubber mulch is not safe for children. Do you have any study regarding robber mulch that I am not aware of? Please advice. Thanks.