

# Schools and CYP Safety, Health and Wellbeing Advice Document - 14 May 2026

## ASBESTOS IN **SOME** PLAY SAND PRODUCTS – IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

The Government's Office for Product Safety and Standards has now published new guidance.

Recall notices have been issued for a **range of products** which contain play sand that **may** contain trace levels of **asbestos**.

The range of products identified has now expanded from the initial five Hobbycraft products referenced in previous communications in Suffolk Headlines and on Suffolk Learning earlier this year.

### What you need to do

- Look at the official guidance, [Asbestos in consumer products](#), which was published on 13 May 2026.
- Within this guidance, there is a link to the latest **list of recalled products**. There is a possibility that the government may make changes to the list, hence there is no list in this document.
- The link to the latest list of recalled products should remain within their [official guidance](#), so **please access it from there**.
- Check for the presence of any of these products on your premises.

The disposal advice in the government guidance is largely targeted at consumers. Schools are employer business premises and **must follow appropriate asbestos management practices**.

Therefore, if you have any of these products on your school site, **STOP USING THEM IMMEDIATELY** and follow these disposal instructions:

- If the sand is still in its packaging and hasn't been used, place it in a heavy-duty plastic bag, double tape it securely, label it clearly and store it in a secure location out of the reach of children and staff. Return it to the supplier in line with the recall notice at the earliest opportunity.
- If the sand has been used, LA Maintained Schools should:
  - **Immediately** prevent access to the area and switch off any ventilation to the room.
  - Implement your school emergency procedures for dealing with unplanned release of asbestos fibres. **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CLEAN UP SAND OR LOCATIONS WHERE IT WAS USED.**
  - Contact your Property Compliance Manager (Vertas) for further assistance.
  - Report the incident as a Dangerous Occurrence on the GOSS incident reporting system.

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*Academy, Voluntary Aided, Foundation/Trust and Free schools should consult their competent health and safety advisors for advice and assistance.*