



Office for Product
Safety & Standards



Laser pointers are not toys

Laser pointers have become increasingly popular among children, but these potentially dangerous devices are not toys.

False labelling, cheap prices and high-powered devices mean more children are suffering eyesight injuries from lasers. This advice will tell you how to keep your child safe from injury.

What are laser pointers?

Laser pointers are handheld devices which emit a laser beam of coloured light. They are used in medicine, education, and construction, but are becoming popular with children. In the UK, it's illegal to sell powerful lasers to the public, but these products pose a danger to adults and children alike.

Why say no

They can permanently damage eyes



Increasing numbers of children are suffering eyesight injuries caused by lasers. A laser pointer that's used incorrectly can permanently damage your child's retina.

They are not toys

Laser pointers are used by professionals in science, education and construction – your child doesn't need one.



What to do

Be aware

Many laser devices come into the UK from overseas. Always check what your child is buying online or when on holiday abroad, for example from street sellers.



Look out for false labelling

Imported devices are often labelled with incorrect or fake information. A laser pointer could be more powerful – and more dangerous – than the description suggests.



Take action

If your child owns a laser pointer, there's a real risk they could cause permanent eyesight damage to themselves or someone else.

**The safest thing to do is throw the laser away.
Remove the batteries and dispose of it responsibly.
Check with your local council for the right disposal facilities.**

For more advice, visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-for-product-safety-and-standards>

#losethelasers

