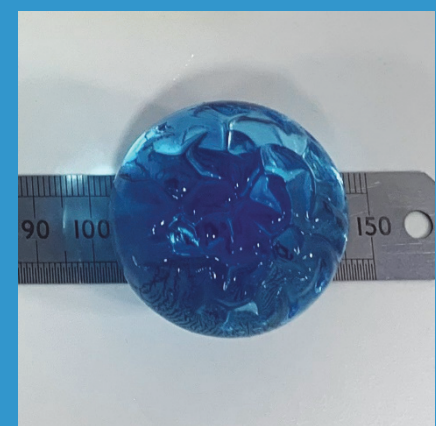


CONSUMER SAFETY ALERT

Water Beads

Risk of serious harm or death



Water beads are small plastic balls that expand on contact with liquid and can become up to 400 times bigger. They are sold for various purposes, including toys. If swallowed, they can cause a blockage in the gastrointestinal tract that requires surgical removal but will not show up on X-ray, making it difficult to detect. If accidentally inhaled, they can lead to coughing and choking.

Consumers are asked to be alert to the potential dangers of water beads to children:

- **Always store them out of sight and reach of children**
- **Keep them away from young children under 5 years old**
- **Only let older children use them if closely supervised by an adult**

Common names for water beads include aqua gel, biodegradable balls, floating pearls, gel beads, jelly balls, jelly water gems, sensory beads, silicone orbs, water absorbing beads, water balls, and water crystals.



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