

Test your infill service in 10 questions

1 – Is it dangerous to play on synthetic turf? At the highest level, regulatory bodies such as EPA & the European Commission have thoroughly reviewed the scientific literature and launched their own studies with respect to safety of playgrounds and synthetic turf fields. As of today, all studies have concluded that, by a very large majority, infill products sold on the market do not present any health risks and benefits associated with a regular activity by far overcome potential risks associated with exposure to rubber infill or rubber tiles.

2 – So why should I test? On very rare instances, materials from questionable origins happened to be an issue. For instance, while it is generally accepted that End of Life Tires (ELT) are suitable materials for synthetic fields, other components such as rubber hoses should not be used since their chemical composition vary and may at times exceed regulatory limits in place. By precaution, Laboratory tests can ensure that the infill you are playing on has been designed for its specific use, comes from a trustable source and as a result complies with regulation limits.

3 – Which chemical compounds are you testing and why? As an ISO accredited laboratory, we are constantly keeping up to-date with regulatory changes. We are involved in several standardization committees (EN, ASTM, ISO, REACH), whose aim is to identify and list all chemical compounds that might be hazardous to the environment and the players. We base our “testyourinfill” service on the most up to date list of such substances. Today experts agree that heavy metals and PAHs are the main substances that should be monitored for playgrounds and synthetic turf playing fields.

4 – What are heavy metals? What are the risks associated with them? Heavy metals are generally defined as metals with high densities or atomic weights. Some heavy metals are either essential nutrients (typically iron, cobalt, and zinc), or relatively harmless (such as ruthenium, silver, and indium), but can be toxic in larger amounts or certain forms. Other heavy metals, such as cadmium, mercury, and lead are highly poisonous. Heavy metals can degrade air, water and soil quality, and subsequently cause health issues in plants, animals, and people, when too concentrated.

5 – What are PAHs? What are the risks associated with them? Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) are molecules found in coal and tar deposits. They are also produced by incomplete combustion of organic matter for instance in engines, forest fires or industrial processes such as tires manufacturing. Human exposure to PAH is from burning coal at home, tobacco smoke, diet (grilled meat) and emissions from vehicles. Cancer is a primary risk of exposure to PAHs. Exposure to PAHs has also been linked with cardiovascular disease and poor fetal development.

6 – Can I test other infill types (organic infill such as cork for instance) or playground tiles or chips? In principle, yes. All samples shipped should be 450 grams maximum (20oz).

7 – What should I do if my results are non-compliant? As part of the service, we will automatically provide you with additional analyses to help identify the nature of your material (photography, size analysis, bulk density). Should you wish to investigate further, contact us so that we can arrange to send a technician on site to perform a full diagnosis.

8 – Why do you propose to store my sample for 8 years? If regulation changes, we will be able to notify you and retest your archived sample to see whether it meets the new requirements.

9 – How can I pay? You can either pay by wire transfer, credit card or PayPal account. Follow the instructions on the website, using the different options available.

10 – How do I know if you have received my sample? We commit to sending you the results within 3 weeks of receiving your sample. If after week 4 you have not received anything from us (taking into account delivery time), you should let us know at the local Labosport email or at contact@labosport.com

For more details on the program, please visit www.testyourinfill.com