



Name of Child: _____ Date: _____

Latex Rubber Allergy

What is latex rubber?

Latex is a milky sap that comes from the rubber tree. The sap is used to make rubber products such as balloons, gloves and pacifiers.

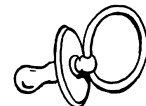
What is a latex rubber allergy?

Some children are allergic to latex rubber. The protein in latex causes a reaction.

Where is latex rubber found?

Latex rubber is in many common items, such as:

- rubber balloons
- chewing gum
- nipples
- Band-Aids
- elastic in clothes
- rubber catheters
- tourniquets used to draw blood
- condoms
- rubber toys or balls
- pacifiers
- rubber bands
- rubber gloves
- paper or cloth tape
- elastic bandages
- dental dams
- wheelchair tires



**Latex rubber is in
many common items.**

Signs and symptoms

Some of the signs of an allergy to latex rubber include:

- skin rash or redness
- itchy skin
- eyes that tear
- wheezing
- tight chest
- fainting
- hives, welts, or swelling anywhere on the body
- itchy eyes
- sneezing or coughing
- trouble breathing
- pain in the chest
- passing out

Who is at risk for an allergy to latex rubber?

If your child had a reaction to balloons, teething rings or other items made of rubber, he or she may be allergic to latex rubber.

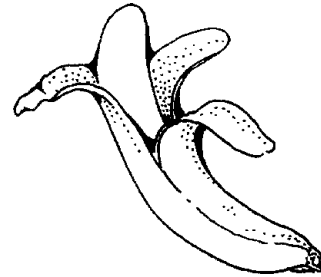
People who touch latex rubber items a lot are more likely to become allergic to it. Latex rubber is in many medical supplies, such as gloves, tape and catheters. Therefore, health care workers are at high risk to develop this allergy.



latex rubber gloves

Children who have had many surgeries or use many latex medical supplies are also at risk. Children with spina bifida or birth defects of the genito-urinary tract are at high risk for allergies to latex rubber. Many of the items they use every day, like catheters and gloves, are made from latex.

Also, people who are allergic to foods like bananas, avocados, peaches and cherries are also at higher risk for an allergy to latex rubber because they contain similar proteins.



People who are allergic to foods like bananas are at higher risk for an allergy to latex rubber.

Children at high risk should avoid rubber products even if they have never had a reaction. The more a person at risk touches latex rubber, the more likely an allergy will develop.

What if my child has a latex allergy?

If your child has a latex rubber allergy:

- Your child should stay away from latex.

yes no Your child should always carry medicine to take in case of emergency.
Your nurse or doctor will tell you when to use it and how.

- Use items that do not contain latex:

- plastic toys
- mylar balloons
- silk tape
- silicone pacifiers and nipples
- vinyl or plastic gloves
- catheters made of plastic, silicone or vinyl

- Everyone allergic to latex should wear a medical alert bracelet that says, "Allergy to Latex." Ask your doctor or pharmacist how you can get a bracelet.

- If your child has a medical condition that requires home care or treatments, travel with latex-free supplies.

- As soon as possible, tell everyone who takes care of your child to keep away items made of latex rubber.

Tell: family members day care workers school nurse
 teachers doctors dentists
 nurses babysitters others:

(Check all that apply.)

If your child has an allergic reaction to latex rubber:

1. Take away the latex item that is causing the reaction.
2. Follow the treatment plan your doctor gave you.



If your child passes out, has trouble breathing or feels pain or tightness in the chest call for an ambulance or call 911 right away.

Now that you've read this:

- Tell your nurse or doctor what you will do to keep latex rubber away from your child. (Check when done.)
- Tell your nurse or doctor what you will do if your child has a reaction to latex rubber. (Check when done.)



If you have any questions or concerns,

- call your child's doctor or call _____

If you want to know more about child health and illness,
visit our library at **The Emily Center at Phoenix Children's Hospital:**
1919 East Thomas Road in Phoenix
602-546-1400
www.phoenixchildrenshospital.com

Disclaimer

The information provided at this site is intended to be general information, and is provided for educational purposes only. It is not intended to take the place of examination, treatment, or consultation with a physician. Phoenix Children's Hospital urges you to contact your physician with any questions you may have about a medical condition.

#249 • Written by Nancy Quay, MS, RN • Illustrated by Dennis Swain
This handout is also available in Spanish as #558/249s.