

More firms to limit lead in artificial turf !

California officials announced a settlement that requires artificial turf makers FieldTurf and Beaulieu to eliminate nearly all lead from their products used by schools, parks and day-care centers.

State Attorney General Jerry Brown said Friday the settlement would reduce the exposure of kids to the potentially lethal health hazard of lead. Brown also said the settlement required FieldTurf, the nation's biggest supplier of artificial turf fields, to replace fields installed in California before November 2003 at a discount if they tested high for lead. Beaulieu, which supplies artificial turf to retailers such as The Home Depot, agreed to pay for testing of products at California day-care centers, schools and playgrounds bought after October 2004. In addition, Beaulieu will pay \$285,000 in penalties, grants and fees, FieldTurf \$212,500.

Last year, AstroTurf agreed to limit lead in its products and pay \$170,000.

The cases were launched in 2008 after testing discovered levels of lead in turf 10 times higher than that allowed under state and federal guidelines for children's products. Also two years ago, a half-dozen school fields were closed by authorities in New Jersey and New York because of the possible threat of lead contamination.

"We welcome this agreement to protect children from the unnecessary lead threats they faced from some artificial turf fields," said Michael Green of the Center for Environmental Health.

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