

12/12/2024

To Whom It May Concern:

Trust for Public Land (TPL) is writing to express concern about the potential hazards of artificial turf, and to urge your company to prioritize the development of the safest possible products.

TPL is a national nonprofit that works to connect everyone to the benefits and joys of the outdoors. TPL works with communities to create parks, trails, schoolyards and protect public land, and builds dozens of schoolyards and parks each year. We use artificial turf in many of our projects. Moreover, we work in collaboration with many partners across the parks and greenspace sector, impacting the design practices and purchasing decisions beyond our own projects.

We have received numerous queries from partners and stakeholders regarding the potential hazards of artificial turf. With health as one of TPL's central organization commitments, we share those concerns. TPL's approach to artificial turf consists of four commitments, described in our report *The Use of Artificial Turf in Parks and Schoolyards* (available at <https://www.tpl.org/artificial-turf-in-parks-playgrounds-report>).

In line with this approach, we respectfully request that you commit to concrete steps to advance the health, safety, and environmental sustainability of your artificial turf products. Specifically, we encourage you to:

1. Identify and implement the use of alternatives to persistent, bioaccumulative, or toxic (PBT) chemicals in any and all components of artificial turf, including research and development of innovative products if necessary. Make public all chemical components of your artificial turf products, and submit to external verification of the removal of PBT chemicals.
2. Identify and adopt cooling technologies to mitigate the heat buildup that can make turf surfaces uncomfortably or dangerously hot during warm weather, including research and development of innovative products if necessary. Make public documentation of the effectiveness of these cooling technologies under real-world conditions.
3. Identify and adopt features aimed at reducing turf-related injuries for users of all ages, including research and development of innovative products if necessary. Make public documentation of the effectiveness of these injury prevention features under real-world conditions.
4. Develop artificial turf products that can be recycled at the end of their service lives, including research and development of innovative products and processes if necessary. Make public documentation of the feasibility of recycling under real-world conditions, and documentation that recycling is actually occurring.

By focusing on these areas, your company can not only enhance the safety of your products but also reinforce your leadership position in the industry as a responsible, forward-thinking manufacturer. This proactive approach will undoubtedly benefit both your customers and the communities that rely on your products.

TPL will follow your company's approach to these issues with interest. We would be happy to discuss this further or learn more about your company's initiatives regarding artificial turf safety. Thank you for your time and attention, and we look forward to your response.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'C' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Carrie Besnette Hauser
President & CEO