



KANE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Loose magnets, lead paint spark toy recall**

Toy manufacturer Mattel Inc. of El Segundo, Calif., is recalling as many 9 million toys made in China that may prove hazardous to small children. The recall includes as many as 7.3 million Polly Pocket play sets, in which small magnets can come loose and be swallowed by small children.

“If more than one magnet is swallowed, the magnets can attract each other and cause intestinal perforation or blockage, which can be fatal,” Kane County Health Department Executive Director Paul Kuehnert said.

Also in the Mattel recall are 1 million Doggie Day Care and 683,000 Barbie and Tanner play sets due to the potential for magnets coming loose. The firm also is recalling about 250,000 “Sarge” die cast toy cars because the toys may contain hazardous levels of lead paint.

In November, 2006, Mattel recalled 2.4 million Polly Pocket play sets after three children required intestinal surgery after swallowing them. While no additional injuries have been reported, the company has received reports of magnets coming loose. No injuries have been reported related to the “Sarge” toy car.

Consumers should immediately take the recalled toys away from children and contact Mattel to receive a free replacement toy. For additional information, call Mattel toll-free at (888) 597-6597 anytime or visit the firm’s Web site at [www.service.mattel.com](http://www.service.mattel.com).

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