

# WARNING:

## THIS SHIT CAN KILL YOU!

### SUBSTANCE XXX

- Colorless
- No olfactory warning properties (odorless).
- Has the ability to become various forms under certain conditions.
- Can cause asphyxiation by displacing oxygen.
- In temperature extremes it can cause serious skin and tissue damage that has the potential to become irreversible which may lead to the need of an amputation.
- If ingested in extreme copious amounts it can cause swelling and ultimately death.
- It can react violently in the presence of certain chemicals such as strong acids if not handled properly.
- Has the potential to transfer disease and disease vectors.

Would you believe that Substance XXX is freely available to the American public? Furthermore this substance carries no warnings, no signs, and no alert of the hazards that it presents. And some of the hazards are pretty darned serious.

Before I tell you what this widely available potential killer is, let me give you a few more startling facts.

Substance XXX is responsible for:

- the deaths of thousands, if not millions of people throughout history
- the destruction of various civilizations in ancient times, and of cities in more modern times

According to the World Health Organization, it causes the deaths of 1.4 million children each year.

Is this not an outrage? Shouldn't we be warned? Should there not be an alert on the news educating us on the dangers of Substance XXX? And when Substance XXX is packaged, and shipped, should there not be a hazard warning on the package? At the very least a

warning to keep it away from children? What about regulations? Where are the darned regulations on this Substance?

What do *you* think? Should we get a petition going to require warning labels?

*YES!!* You say??

*Are you sure?*

If you are really sure that this Substance should have warning labels so that the unaware public is properly informed, then let me ask you this: do you really think we need warning labels on containers of water? Yes, Substance XXX is *water!* It is odorless, colorless, it can take on several forms (vapor, liquid, solid), and people can drown in it (asphyxiation), Exposure to it in extreme temperatures can cause tissue damage (burns, frostbite). People have managed to drink too much (I cant image how) and died as a result. Don't even think of adding water to a strong acid, the chemical reaction can be deadly as can working on live electrical equipment while standing in a puddle of water. Adding water to some chemicals can even create a fire and an explosion! And yes it can carry disease if the water is contaminated with chemicals or biologicals.

This brings me to the warning labels I have seen on packages of beads that are delivered to my door. Pewter and crystals containing lead and small parts that can cause a choking hazard seem to be the modern day witches that are the threat to our society.

Why do we NEED those regulations that require such labeling? Is this just a dumb California regulation, or do you in other states see similar warnings on your packages? Don't you think this is a great example of over regulation? I do. I work for a bureaucracy that creates, adopts and enforces regulations concerning safety in the work place, so I know the putrid stench of over regulation all too well. Over regulation is usually brought on (in my opinion) by stupid people who can't think for themselves and money hungry lawyers who take on laughable cases that should never be considered let alone litigated.

Ok, fine, we *should* know that there is lead in the pewter and crystal components we use, just in case we decide to let our kids use a bracelet we strung together as an impromptu teething ring. And yes we should be aware that should that bracelet come apart in the toddler's mouth that it is now also a choking hazard. But do we need labels on the packaging blaring the warning as if the contents contain some form of highly radioactive plutonium?

Where has common sense gone? Where has self-responsibility gone? Do we need to be told that items of a certain size when put into an oral cavity, particularly that of a child, can become a choking hazard? If so, then what about little gardening stones, or gravel? Shouldn't those items come with a warning label? Or even have a prohibition to use it in households with children under 3 years of age? Why aren't there warning labels on items such as cherries, grapes, those tiny carrots, and even Fruit Loops?

A mother who lets her children play with jewelry components or doesn't keep them out of reach of her children is to blame should a choking episode occur. I do not see how a damned label on a box would prevent the exposure to the hazard. Nor do I see it making the mother more aware. Why should a bead manufacturer or a bead store be responsible for the mother's lack of common sense and outright stupidity? Likely, if she can't figure it out on her own, a label with warnings won't change her attitude towards having small parts accessible to her children. That is assuming she read the label to begin with.

What about someone who allows their kid to teeth on a necklace or bracelet with a lead containing product? First of all, you need to understand that lead in crystals is unlikely to dissolve in the mouth. It is pretty strongly bound, similar to the lead in fine goblets and wine glasses made of lead crystal. While I am not saying that it is safe for a kid to make a practice of trying to suck the lead out of a bead, it is unlikely that he can do so. Lead in Pewter (thankfully most pewter is now made lead free) may not be as strongly bound but again, just how much lead can a kid get from this item? How many hours of lead sucking enjoyment can a kid have before the kid suffers the brain damaging ill effects that are associated with high lead exposures?

Maybe the more important question is: *what the hell is someone thinking while they are letting their kid gnaw on these items?* Lead is a culprit in children not learning as well as they should. Maybe these adults have been over exposed to lead as a child themselves and just don't have the full compliment of brain cells like the rest of us do.

I can think of other items that we as beaders use that could use hazard warnings. I think that there are items that cause a much more immediate danger than lead. Here is what I propose:

- Needles and scissors "Caution may cause puncture wounds and possible impalements."
- Clippers "Improper use may lead to amputation. Safety goggles and full body armor are recommended due to flying bits of metal that could blind you and otherwise injure you."
- Thread "May cause entanglement"
- Books and other paper based products "Might inflict paper cuts"
- And the very box it is all packaged in "May cause a tripping hazard"

We have become a nation with regulations set up to save ourselves from being stupid. I enforce regulations during my day job, which in my opinion are common sense items. I worry about governmental intrusion telling the how-what-when and where we must do in every portion of our lives. I fear the regulations telling me how much water I need to drink, how often I should urinate that I enforce during the course of my day job (don't laugh, we are almost there now!). I feel we should use common sense and a good measure of self-responsibility with fewer regulations so that we can maintain our freedom and independence from the type of government that would like to see otherwise.

I would propose that beads (and related supplies) come with one and only one generic warning. "Use at your own risk. These beads possess any and potentially all of the hazards that we are exposed to every day and are associated with living a day to day life: choking, poisoning, punctures, intestinal blockage, loss of vision, loss of appetite, sedentary behavior, late nights/loss of sleep, loss of the use of your dining room table, unexplainable depletion of one's cash reserve, frustration, loss of interest in other hobbies, extreme joy, and of course addiction".

You have been duly warned on the hazards of beadwork. End of Safety training. Now don't get hurt and enjoy your unregulated beading!