



UNITED STATES
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY
BETHESDA, MD 20814

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER RICH TRUMKA JR.**

**COMMISSIONER TRUMKA RECEIVES COMMITMENTS THAT JO-ANN'S,
KOHL'S, AND SHEIN WILL STOP SELLING WATER BEADS; HOBBY LOBBY AND
WISH FAIL TO MAKE SIMILAR COMMITMENTS TO SAFETY**

January 2, 2024

I am happy to announce commitments from Jo-Ann Stores, Kohl's, and Shein that they will stop selling water beads to children. If ingested by children, water beads can be deadly.¹

On December 20th, I sent letters to Jo-Ann Stores, Kohl's, Hobby Lobby, Wish, and Shein, asking them to protect kids by getting water beads off their shelves. Doing so would bring them in line with other major retailers like Amazon, Walmart, and Target,² which recently announced they will do the same.

On December 27th, Kohl's agreed stop selling all water bead products, stating that:

Pursuant to the December 20, 2023 letter from Commissioner Trumka, Kohl's has instituted a stop sale on all water beads products. Water beads products will be pulled from all Kohl's retail locations and will no longer be sold on Kohls.com, and all water beads products in Kohl's possession will be destroyed.

In addition, Kohl's will no longer sell water beads products in the future.

Jo-Ann Stores made the same commitment:

Commissioner Trumka Jr.:

I am in receipt of your December 20, 2023 letter to Scott Sekella and Chris DiTullio regarding Jo-Ann Stores, LLC ("JOANN") sale of water bead products. This letter shall confirm that JOANN has discontinued the sale of water beads. All products have been removed from our website (joann.com) and any product that was remaining in stores has been discarded.

And Shein confirmed that they are no longer selling water beads “in the form of toys, educational materials, and/or art materials designed, intended, or marketed to children under the age of twelve.”

However, Hobby Lobby and Wish have not responded with a commitment to discontinue selling water beads. They have failed to keep up with their competitors, as they have not made similar commitments to safety. Corporate greed can be deadly.

CPSC is aware of at least one child who died after swallowing a water bead, and a second child was seriously injured after ingesting the same product. I urge all retailers to decide that the risk these products pose to young lives is too great to justify their continued sale.

¹ Water Beads, *Consumer Product Safety Commission* (available at: <https://www.cpsc.gov/Safety-Education/Safety-Education-Centers/Water-Beads-Information-Center>).

² Lauren Kirchner, “Amazon, Target, and Walmart Announce They Will Stop Selling Water Beads Marketed for Children,” *Consumer Reports* (Dec. 12, 2023)(available at: <https://www.consumerreports.org/babies-kids/toys/amazon-to-stop-selling-water-bead-toys-a2333261526/>).