

GLOSSARY OF GUNK

INGREDIENTS THAT MAY BE HIDDEN IN GUMBASE.

INGREDIENTS

SOURCE

CONCERNS

STYRENE-BUTADIENE RUBBER

Petroleum

City of New York commissioned a 200-page study before using crumb rubber (primarily composed of SBR) in synthetic turf fields, and noted 11 chemicals of potential concern.¹

GLYCEROL ESTER OF ROSIN

Stumps of pine trees

Federal regulations prevent more than 100 parts of rosin per million for fruit drinks and sodas. No such limits exist for chewing gum.²

POLYVINYL ACETATE

Petroleum

Declared "toxic" by Canadian Environmental Protection Act in 2008.³

PARAFFIN WAX

Petroleum

The State of California lists at least seven major toxins in paraffin wax, including toluene, benzene, methyl ethyl ketone (MEK), and naphthalene.

ARTIFICIAL COLORS

Petroleum

Blue 1, Blue 2, Citrus Red 2, Green 3, Orange B, Red 3, Red 40, Yellow 5, and Yellow 6 — labeled the "rainbow of risk" by the Center for Science in the Public Interest.⁴ With links to cancer, hyperactivity and birth defects, they are banned in the UK, France and elsewhere.

ASPARTAME

Lab

Concerns over aspartame safety have dogged the chemical since its US introduction in 1981. Over 20 studies link the chemical to problems ranging from birth defects to cancer.⁵

ACESULFAME POTASSIUM

Lab

The Center for Science in the Public Interest petitioned the FDA for a stay of approval on the chemical due to the lack of testing done on this substance. Studies on animals have shown a correlation between acesulfame potassium and various tumors.⁶

BUTYLATED HYDROXYTOLUENE (BHT)

Lab

These additives are approved by the FDA as safe for human consumption. However, they are proven carcinogens. There is proof that some people have difficulty metabolizing BHT and this can result in health and behavioral changes.⁶

REFERENCES

- ¹ http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/eode/turf_report_05-08.pdf
- ² <http://healthwyze.org/index.php/component/content/article/383-why-a-stick-of-gum-is-more-harmful-to-your-healththan-anything-that-you-eat.html>
- ³ <http://www.canada.com/montrealgazette/news/books/story.html?id=c44590c2-3ab9-470e-92ec-81f6c1d2151a>
- ⁴ <http://cspinet.org/new/pdf/food-dyes-rainbow-of-risks.pdf>
- ⁵ <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2290544/Aspartame-Cancer-premature-birth-fears-linked-fizzy-drinksweetener.html>
- ⁶ <http://healthwyze.org/index.php/component/content/article/383-why-a-stick-of-gum-is-more-harmful-to-your-healththan-anything-that-you-eat.html>

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GUM

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