



It's All About Balloons.

# Natural rubber balloons biodegradable and sustainable



**Latex balloons** are made of natural rubber latex, the tree sap of the rubber tree *Hevea Brasiliensis*, a renewable raw material. The first harvest on the trees takes place about 8 years after planting. Until then the trees can grow and already make an important contribution to the reduction of climate-damaging greenhouse gases. The latex is harvested by scratching the bark, similar to resin extraction from conifers. The tree is not destroyed. After approx. 35-45 years the harvest is less productive. The tree is then replaced and the wood is reused due to its excellent properties, for example for furniture construction, interior fittings, toys or even music storms.

**Manufacturing of latex balloons:** Our balloons are produced by dipping balloon moulds into natural rubber latex. The balloon films are first dried, then removed from the mould and thoroughly washed to remove natural proteins that could cause allergies in some people. Therefore our protein values are in the range of the values for medical gloves, even if there is no legal limit for balloons themselves. The structure of the natural polymer of the natural rubber is not modified during the manufacturing process of our balloons, but remains in its naturally occurring structure. The so-called rubber network is only slightly reinforced so that the balloons become more elastic and do not age too quickly. This is done by the so-called vulcanisation with traces of the naturally occurring element sulphur. The balloons, for example, are much less vulcanized than condoms or medical gloves. The colour pigments used for colouring are also organic.



**Latex balloons in the environment:** Latex balloons are not made of conventional plastic and are not converted into dangerous microplastics during biodegradation. Latex balloons are therefore a natural product and biodegradable in a similar way to oak leaves; they degrade even faster than wooden articles or wool. In addition, our balloons are the only ones in the world to be certified as tested for harmful substances by TUV Saar/SGS. This ensures maximum product safety.



Don't let go !!

According to a Japanese study, if balloon remains from animals are accidentally ingested as food, they are usually digested normally without blocking the stomach like plastic articles. Since 1885 only 6 cases have been documented by the DEFRA where balloons were involved in damage to animals. However, we believe that every living creature is valuable and no product should simply be disposed of carelessly in the environment, whether it is a wooden item, a latex balloon or a plastic bottle.



As a manufacturer, we have therefore been speaking out against mass releases of balloons for years. A special danger arises if plastic strings are used, which represent a real danger for animals and the environment. According to the evaluation of Europe-wide beach cleaning by OSPAR on behalf of the EU, only about 5 kg of balloon material is found on all European beaches every year. These small quantities clearly show that consumers are already using latex balloons responsibly today and that the balloons are not significantly involved in the pollution of the marine environment.

In Germany, mass releases are subject to aviation regulations and are far less popular than, for example, in the Netherlands or England. Since the end of 2018, we have voluntarily indicated on our packaging that consumers should not let the balloons fly with a symbol.

Latex balloons do **not** pose any **danger** to the environment if **handled properly**, but are a sustainable natural product, which has been a lot of fun for children and adults for over 100 years.