

# Consumer Alert!

## Parents Beware Of Possible Choking Hazard

(NAPSA)—Consumer advocates have issued warnings against an innocent-looking candy product called Megga Surprise. In fact, advocates are so concerned about the potential harm that could be caused by this product that they've called for it to be removed from stores.

What is Megga Surprise? And why should parents be concerned?

The Megga Surprise Chocolate Egg looks like the sort of little treat you give your children at Easter. It comes in the same kind of foil wrapper. Open it up, and it even smells like a chocolate egg that might have a yummy, creamy center. But what happens when you bite into it? You bite into plastic—that's your big surprise! The egg isn't chocolatey at all. It's actually a pull-apart plastic container that's just thinly coated with a film of chocolate.

Consumer advocates such as the National Consumers League and the Consumer Federation of America fear that children will be fooled into swallowing it. And that's why parents should be worried. Megga Surprise is sold in retail outlets such as 7-Eleven stores where children have ready access to it.

Nonsense, say manufacturers Whetstone Candy Company of Florida. The plastic doesn't consti-



tute any kind of safety risk, they argue. The plastic egg is too big to swallow, and the plastic itself is too soft to damage teeth. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission confirms that Megga Surprise has passed federal tests designed to assess its choking potential. However, the Commission describes the combination of plastic and chocolate in a product designed for children as a "bad idea."

Parents are likely to agree. After all, one of the primary warnings you give your children is to avoid putting anything in their mouths that isn't food. Here's a product that's all about fooling children into doing just that.

Megga Surprise may be just the kind of surprise that parents want to avoid.