

## Removing Chewing Gum from Playground surfaces

### Summary of GSNW Email Network Responses, August 2005

Following is a summary of the feedback on Edd Snell's Question 'Does anyone have any practical or technical advice on removing chewing gum stuck to rubber safety surfacing (wet pour) in children's play areas?'. If you would like to talk to a contributor or add any information, please contact the Forum Manager.

#### Chewing Gum Removal

So far the thoughts from network members include:

1. **Not** to use solvent or anything too hot as this damages the wet pour
2. Two people advice freezing using one of the gum removal machines
3. One recommended using a graffiti buster with a hot water pressure spray, but warns do not set it too hot as this will melt the wet pour (sounds like the voice of experience)
4. One lets the weather take care of it
5. One provided details of an external gum removal contractor (available on request). The free ENCAMS knowledge bank CD (See following) also contains details of companies that provide this service

#### Prevention

The IDeA Website contains lots of good information on recent government gum reduction campaigns including a successful pilot at Preston City Council involving gum boards and pouches.

See: <http://www.idea-knowledge.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelid=753157>

For DEFRA's feedback on the pilots and on the Chewing Gum Action Group see: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localenv/gum/pilot.htm>

ENCAMS have a report including some useful statistics on gum littering at <http://www.encams.org/views/main.asp?section=10&sub=22&pageid=105>

They also have a free knowledge bank CD that has case studies, best practice, research and a list of commercial companies that either supply gum removal or prevention equipment, or provide a gum removal service. It can be ordered from:

<http://www.encams.org/publications/main.asp?cat=6>

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 confirmed that chewing gum is classified as litter, for more information see:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localenv/legislation/cnea/index.htm#intro>

GreenSpace North West email network is an association of individuals and organisations who share information for their mutual benefit. Please be advised that nothing found here has been checked by the organisation. That is not to say that you will not gain valuable information from the network; usually you will. However, **GreenSpace North West cannot guarantee the validity of the information.**