

Glow Sticks Suck OCF Craft Committee Dragon Speaks

Glow sticks suck! No they don't you might say... and to that we must, sadly, reply... yes they most certainly do.

Though glow sticks omit a transfixing light for hours of enjoyment at a time, they are designed to be garbage after just one use and though many of the contents within them are actually organic, not everything organic was meant to be ingested or come in contact with our skin.

Beyond being yet one more disposable product, glow sticks contain some components that, given they are often broke open and their contents played with, you might want to know a little about.

The most common chemical components found in Glow Sticks:

- 1. Phthalate Esters- used in the production of pliable plastic. It makes plastic flexible with out loosing durability or strength. It acts as a lubricant between molecules: like vinyl, fingernail polish and some paint for example. It is and organic compound that breaks down readily.*
- 2. Oxalates- oxalic acid is a toxic compound when in concentrated levels, is a colorless crystalline organic acid found in plants. It is used as a disinfectant, bleach, rust remover and for chemical analysis. One form of this is known as Hydrogen Peroxide, which is the most common oxalate compound found in glow sticks.*
- 3. Anthracene- a solid hydrocarbon which when mixed with a catalyst glows. Not much is know about this compound except that it is organic, it breaks down into free radicals and when tested on rats a small percentage developed tumors.*

Though the majority of ingredients used to create glow sticks are organic and I've yet to find a site that claims their toxicity, much like arsenic, which is also organic, it is easy to conclude that something made from the above ingredients, might also be found deadly one day.

If you want to check this out Google each ingredient! You might be surprised.

Think about it, and hopefully you too will say, "Glow stick suck"!