

Fantasy Castles Environmental Policy regarding Balloons

We don't just love balloons – we love our Environment too!

Our staff only use Qualatex Latex Balloons for their balloon sculptures and modelling. We will always pick up any broken balloons which have popped around their working area and dispose of them properly. Please check to see if any of your guests have a latex allergy before making a booking with us.

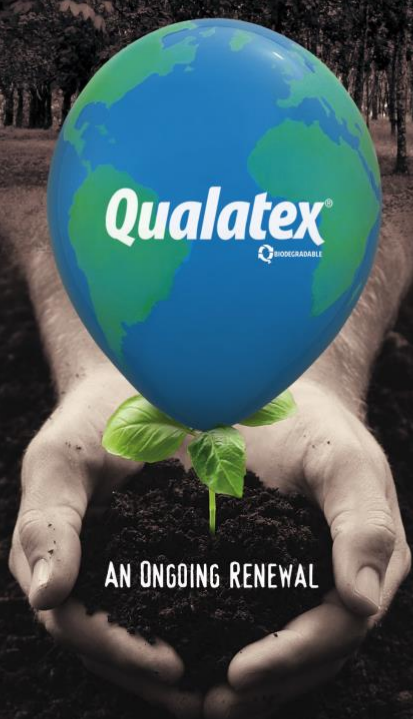
Are latex balloons bad for the environment?

Latex balloons are made from organic material produced by rubber trees and coloured with natural pigments. Because of this, latex balloons are [biodegradable](#) as well as photodegradable, and by themselves are not inherently bad for the environment. However, it is important to always weight balloons (so they don't float away) and properly dispose of them. We do not supply balloons for or condone balloon releases – these are extremely dangerous for wildlife and foil type balloons are not biodegradable.

Are foil balloons bad for the environment?

Foil balloons are made from a metalized nylon. They are not biodegradable, [but can be reused](#) by deflating the balloons with a straw small enough to fit inside the balloon inflation valves. [Learn how to deflate a foil balloon here.](#) To keep our world clean and beautiful, responsibly use and dispose of items – including balloons – properly. Keep foil balloons weighted and out of the air to prevent potential power outages if contact happens with power lines.

Our supplier, Qualatex (Pioneer Europe) is a founding member of the European Balloon and Party Council (the “EBPC”). More information on the EBPC and its policies can be found [here](#).




A NATURAL PRODUCT

Qualatex®
BIODEGRADABLE

AN ONGOING RENEWAL

- Latex is harvested by tapping the rubber tree in a manner that does not harm the tree.
- Each tree—and there are billions—consumes CO₂, thus reducing global warming.
- When latex is processed, each part of the product is used.
- After the tree no longer produces latex, it is harvested and its wood is turned into lumber.
- Each year mature trees are tapped, old trees are harvested, new trees are planted, and CO₂ is consumed.

 **Qualatex**
qualatex.com

Tips for how to reduce waste after your party or event

Consumers play a critical role in reducing the waste produced by party decorations. When the party's over, it's important that balloons mustn't float away and are disposed of properly. Read on for tips on reducing your balloon waste.

Ensure Every Helium-Filled Balloon Is Weighted

One of the easiest solutions to ensuring your balloons won't slip away is to attach a weight to each balloon before heading outdoors. While [latex balloons are biodegradable](#) and have very little environmental impact, they should still be weighted so they don't inadvertently get away and can be disposed of properly.

If you are purchasing a bouquet, each balloon should be individually tied to the weight. In other words, do not tie the balloons together and then tie them to a weight. If the balloons accidentally break free from the weight, this will ensure they float away separately rather than in a bunch that could become entangled in trees or power lines

The Advantage of Air-Filled Balloons

[The world isn't running out of helium anytime soon](#) but it is possible to reduce helium consumption – and save money – by looking at alternatives. Did you know it's possible to decorate a party with only air-filled balloons? While any balloon can be filled with helium or air, many stores now carry balloons that are specifically designed to be filled with air and hung from the ceiling or on a wall. Air-filled balloons are typically light enough that you can stick them to a wall with folded scotch tape.

Refill Foil Balloons

Foil balloons can typically be refilled multiple times! With care, you can release the air or helium inside and store it for next time! [This blog post from The Creative Recycler shows how.](#)

Dispose Of Balloons Properly

Finished enjoying balloons? Dispose of properly by popping each balloon with a pin or scissors and placing in a trash receptacle. Because latex balloons are biodegradable, they can actually be [composted!](#) If you have a compost pile or a composting facility near you, this is a great way to dispose of latex balloons.

Recycle Your Balloon Waste

These tips help you manage the balloon waste after your event. But don't stop there! Companies like [TerraCycle](#) offer programs to recycle all your post-party supplies, not just balloons. With your help, we can create a cleaner world after all of life's

Are helium-filled balloons bad for the environment?

Helium is a [colourless, odourless, inert, non-toxic gas](#) and is used to make balloons lighter than air....or float. But is it bad for the environment? The answer is no.

[When released into the atmosphere, helium, the second most abundant element in the universe,](#) has no adverse effect on the environment and, in fact, [escapes into space](#). While there are periodic supply chain delivery challenges, new sources of helium are continually being discovered in countries around the globe such as Canada, Qatar, and Russia.

Are balloon releases bad for the environment?

In years past, we might celebrate an event like a memorial service or a sporting event with the intentional release of balloons into the sky. Many found this created a sense of wonder or exhilaration while watching them float upwards. With a renewed focus on environmental impact, it's time to retire the tradition of releasing balloons and insist balloons be weighted and disposed of properly to keep them from flying away. Read: [5 Reasons You Should Never Release Balloons into the Air](#)

Don't Let Go: Love Balloons & The Environment Too!

- Never release a balloon outdoors
- Helium-filled balloons always need to be weighted.
- Don't tie helium-filled foil balloons together in a cluster before tying to a weight. Be sure they are all individually secured to the weight.
- Never tie a metallic ribbon to a helium-filled foil balloon
- Call the power company if you see balloons entangled in power lines.
- Properly dispose of balloons in a trash (or recycling!) bin after deflating.

Whether it's a single balloon or hundreds, take care of the environment by not releasing balloons, by always disposing of them properly and by educating family and friends of these important practices

SAFE BALLOON PRACTICES



DON'T RELEASE HELIUM BALLOONS OUTDOORS - TIE EACH HELIUM BALLOON INDIVIDUALLY TO A WEIGHT. ALWAYS DISPOSE OF BALLOONS RESPONSIBLY.



UNINFLATED OR BURST BALLOONS CAN PRESENT A CHOKING HAZARD - PLEASE SUPERVISE SMALL CHILDREN AT ALL TIMES.



ONLY PURCHASE CE MARKED PRODUCT. THESE PRODUCTS ARE SUBJECT TO EUROPE'S HIGH MANUFACTURING AND TESTING STANDARDS.



TO REMOVE THE RISK OF INJURY, ALWAYS USE A BALLOON PUMP AND NEVER INHALE HELIUM.



BALLOONS MADE OF NATURAL RUBBER LATEX MAY CAUSE A REACTION IN THOSE WITH LATEX ALLERGIES. LOOK OUT FOR SYMPTOMS AND SEEK HELP IF REQUIRED.

