



The bursting hot water bottle

Imagine you go to bed on a cold winter's night with a rubber hot water bottle to keep you warm. You are just dropping off to sleep when the rubber hot water bottle bursts, spilling hot water onto you. Your legs are burnt and you have to visit the doctor for treatment. You are lucky not to have permanent scars.

This is what happened to a number of people who bought rubber hot water bottles in 2004. The hot water bottles were imported into New Zealand but many of them were not the right thickness of rubber. After a short amount of use they were splitting at the neck, splitting down the side seams or leaking at the stoppers.

Who do you think had responsibility to make sure that the hot water bottles were safe?

- The consumers who were buying them.
- The businesses selling them.
- The manufacturers of the hot water bottles.
- The government.

What do you think should have happened to stop people getting burned by bursting rubber hot water bottles?

