

## Why did Grubby Clark close his factory - Mystery Cards

<p>1. Clark Foam uses a toxic chemical called Toluene Di Isocynate (TDI) to make surfboard blanks.</p>	<p>2. Clark Foam was founded in 1961 by Gordon "Grubby" Clark.</p>
<p>3. A custom surfboard is shaped from a blank made out of polyurethane foam and then covered with layers of fibreglass and resin.</p>	<p>4. Many people in California's cottage industry of custom board shapers will be out of work.</p>
<p>5. The Environmental Protection Agency said that Clark Foam was in compliance with its codes relating to the use of hazardous materials.</p>	<p>6. Maria Teresa Barriga claims that her husband, an ex-employee of Clark Foam carried open buckets of toxic TDI which sloshed on his hands, arms, legs and feet.</p>
<p>7. Before the invention of foam boards in 1958, surfboards had been made of balsa wood and had to be carved by hand.</p>	<p>8. Most companies using Toluene Di Isocynate (TDI) have already left California.</p>
<p>9. Surftech is a company producing surfboards made from epoxy resin. They do not have a traditional foam blank and are stronger and lighter than traditional boards.</p>	<p>10. The surf world began reeling on Monday afternoon, December 5, 2005 on the news that the surfboard blank supplier Clark Foam, is shutting down operations.</p>
<p>11. A foam blank is a slab of polyurethane, reinforced with one or more wooden strips or "stringers".</p>	<p>12. The Orange County Fire Authority repeatedly reported Clark Foam to other government agencies.</p>

# yourclimateyourlife

<p>13. 90% of the world's blanks came from Clark Foam.</p>	<p>14. Around 100 employees of Clark Foam are now looking for work.</p>
<p>15. Clark Foam was facing increasing pressure from stringent California State and federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards.</p>	<p>16. The mood is one of shocked disbelief at Rat Surfboards, one of a half dozen small surfboard factories based in Oceanside. <i>"This is like our 9/11".</i></p>
<p>17. Walker Foam, based in Wilmington, California, was already six months into production of a new surfboard blank factory in China that would compete with Clark Foam.</p>	<p>18. Competition from new technologies and developments such as epoxy surfboards was eating away at Clark Foam's market share.</p>
<p>19. At Hobie, the surfboards all have half-peeled off sticker residue where the price tags used to be. They've marked up all the surfboards 100 dollars, to start.</p>	<p>20. "For owning and operating Clark Foam I may be looking at very large fines, civil lawsuits, and even time in prison" said Grubby Clark.</p>
<p>21. Exposure to TDI particles in the air can cause severe and chronic lung problems.</p>	<p>22. Grubby Clark claims that he spent nearly a million dollars to comply with environmental regulations.</p>
<p>23. The widow of a 36 year old man has filed a lawsuit in Orange County alleging that her husband died from long-term exposure to deadly chemicals at Clark Foam.</p>	<p>24. Glen Hening of the Surfrider Foundation said the makers of surfboards are contributing to the sport's downfall through the use of toxic chemicals.</p>

25. John Carper has dealt with Grubby for decades and said “He’s a strong-arming, master manipulator. He stated many times that if he ever had any competition, he would walk away.”

26. Gordon Clark is the largest private landowner in Oregon with a 50,000-plus-acre ranch where he raises Black Angus cattle and 3,000 sheep tended by Peruvian shepherds.