

Routes of Exposure

Inhalation – breathing in fumes or airborne contaminants.

Skin Absorption – touching contaminated surfaces or chemicals with hands or other exposed body surfaces, or applying personal care products.

Skin abrasion/lesions/wounds

During play and injuries sustained on toxic surfaces

Ingestion – accidentally swallowing harmful chemicals that have contaminated hands or objects, surfaces where food is being put, or eating foods with pesticide residues.

Some Chronic Diseases due to chemical exposure

Childhood cancers — increasing

Asthma — 1 in 10 children affected

Developmental-+Learning disabilities — unprecedented numbers

Autism 1 in 36 children, on the rise



Parents for Students Safety

www.parentsforstudentssafety.org



Information Sites on Toxic Chemicals



EnviroFacts Master Chemical Integrator (EMCI) EPA

http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/emci/emci_query.html



ATSDR Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry

<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/index.asp>



Toxnet (National Library of Medicine)

<http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/>



Registry of Toxic Effects of Chemical Substances (RTECS)

<http://library.dialog.com/bluesheets/html/bl0336.html>



<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/97-119/default.html>

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Parents take precautions everyday to keep their children safe from dangers and accidents. Unfortunately, many of us are not fully aware of the serious threats to our children's health from exposure to hazardous chemicals lurking in our everyday products.

Keeping Our Children Safe from Toxic Chemicals

A growing body of scientific research suggests that exposure to common chemicals in our homes, schools, and communities may play a significant role in the alarming increase of chronic diseases in children.

Potential Chemical Risks

Pesticides – The widespread use of pesticides in and around schools and homes is a significant threat to our children’s health. The most commonly used pesticide products are associated with both acute and chronic health problems. These products include flea & tick controls, no-pest strips, lawn chemicals & indoor pest control sprays, cleaning/disinfecting products.

Food – Pesticide residues on vegetables, fruits, and GMO products are another significant source of pesticide exposure for children. Most dairy, poultry, and meat contain residues of artificial hormones and antibiotics which interfere with a child’s normal development and contribute to antibiotic resistance.

Cleaning Products – Common cleaning products can contain toxic chemicals and pesticides that can be inhaled, ingested, and absorbed through the skin.

New Carpeting – Synthetic carpeting is made of materials that can be harmful to your child’s health. Formaldehyde, a known carcinogen and volatile organic chemical (VOC) and other VOCs commonly found in carpeting, carpet backing, padding & glues, emit toxic fumes which last for weeks or months after installation.

Paints and Stains – Paints and stains contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that create toxic fumes that can linger indoors for long periods of time.

Fragrance - Known allergen impacting the endocrine, respiratory, and neurological systems.

Plastics – Many instructional toys are made of a chlorinated plastic called polyvinyl chloride (PVC), bearing the #3 recycling code. PVC, the most toxic plastic, from production to disposal, contains chemicals that carry significant health risks when inhaled or ingested. Other plastics may leach chemicals into food.

Avoid: polyethylene terephthalate (PETE), recycling code #1, polystyrene (styrofoam), recycling code #6 and polycarbonate, recycling code #7.

Art Supplies – Oil paints, pastels, permanent or scented markers, rubber cement, spray adhesives, and pottery or ceramic supplies contain substances that may pose a health risk to your child.

Treated Wooden Playground Equipment and Outdoor Furniture – Wood treated with chromated copper arsenate (CCA) prevents it from rotting. It is often used as construction material for playgrounds and outdoor furniture. Arsenic, a component of CCA, is a known human carcinogen, and can be absorbed through skin or accidentally ingested when it is transferred to your child’s hands.

Recycled Tires/Tire Shreds/Tire Crumbs
Highly toxic, cancer causing, health damaging

Water - water is vulnerable to contaminants



Hear from the Experts

Dr. Ted Schettler, MD, MPH, Science Director of the Science and Environmental Health Network stated that: *"For most chemicals, no Government agency has the authority to require safety testing before they are put into widespread use. It's an uncontrolled experiment, and individuals and families across the country are paying the price."* Most people do not know of these dangers.

Children are uniquely vulnerable to toxic exposures due to a number of factors. Their immature organs and developing bodies make it more difficult for them to detoxify or eliminate certain toxins, and because of their size, they receive proportionally greater doses of chemical contaminants found in air, water and food. Even a small exposure occurring during a critical "window" of a child's development could result in permanent adverse health outcomes.

Sources: EPA, EWG, [Environmental Science and Technology October 24, 2006](#), Dr. Ted Schettler, MD, MPH, Science Director of the Science and Environmental Health Network, *Neurotoxins: At Home and the Workplace. Report by the Committee on Science & Technology. U.S. House of Representatives. Sept. 16, 1986. (Report 99-827)*, [Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry \(ATSDR\)](#)<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/> and [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#);

Solutions

Indoor Air Quality in buildings <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/>; Pesticide reduction/use around/ in buildings: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/ipm/>;
For Healthier Schools: Green Cleaning, safer products options and references <http://www.healthyschools.org/>;
Precautionary Principle insights and applicability: <http://sehn.org/precautionary-principle/>;
Institute for Responsible Technology <http://www.responsibletechnology.org/>