

Top Three Things Consumers Can Do To Keep Toxic Chemicals Out of Their Homes and Offices

A WASHINGTON TOXICS COALITION FACT SHEET

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Replacing all of the products in your home that contain or may contain toxic chemicals is impractical, and in some cases impossible. But there are still some steps you can take to reduce your exposure. The top three are:

1. Choose mattresses and furniture that do not contain toxic flame retardants (PBDEs).

Furniture companies that offer PBDE-free products include Furniture, Bean Products, and Greener Lifestyles. Companies offering PBDE-free mattresses include Soaring Heart and Naturepedic. IKEA does not use PBDEs in any of their products. For more information on how to find less toxic furniture, visit <http://pollutioninpeople.org/safer/products/furniture>.

2. Choose electronics carefully.

Sony, Panasonic, Philips, and Samsung have all stopped using PBDEs, and LG Electronics has pledged to stop using PBDEs by 2010. Computer companies that have policies to phase out toxic chemicals (including but not limited to PBDEs) include Dell, Hewlett Packard, Apple, and IBM. For more information on which television and computer companies are phasing out PBDEs, visit <http://www.watoxics.org/issues/pbde/pbde-resources>.

3. Steer clear of products made of PVC/vinyl.

Avoid children's toys and teethingers that are made of PVC. Toymakers that have pledged to stop using PVC include Brio, Chicco, Early Start, Evenflo, Gerber, Lego, Prime Time, Sassy, and Tiny Love. When possible, choose wooden toys with non-toxic paints and coatings instead of plastic toys. For food and beverage storage, choose glass as much as possible, and plastic containers made of polypropylene or polyethylene when necessary. Avoid other household products that can be made of vinyl, including flooring, wall coverings, inflatable furniture, shower curtains, and clothing. For more information on purchasing PVC-free products, visit <http://www.watoxics.org/homes-and-gardens/fastfacts/fastfacts-pvc>.