

BUTYL BENZYL PHTHALATE DIBUTYL PHTHALATE  
PHTHALATE DI-2-ETHYL HEXYL PHTHALATE

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# Chemicals Revealed

OVER

COBALT DIISODONYL PHTHALATE

# 50000

kids' products contain toxic chemicals

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DI-N-HEXYL PHTHALATE COBALT  
DIISODECYL PHTHALATE CADMIUM  
ANTIMONY MOLYBDENUM MERCURY



# CHEMICALS REVEALED:

## Over 5,000 Kids' Products Contain Toxic Chemicals

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Safer States champions solutions to protect public health and communities from toxic chemicals.

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### AUTHORS

#### Nancy Uding

Grants & Research Specialist, Washington Toxics Coalition

#### Erika Schreder

Science Director, Washington Toxics Coalition

### EDITORIAL REVIEW

Mike Belliveau

Sarah Doll

Anne Hulick

Sarah Petras

Deena Prichep

Ivy Sager-Rosenthal

Steve Taylor

Laurie Valeriano

Kathleen Schuler

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Design & Layout Josh Schramm

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## **SUMMARY**

Over 5,000 children's products such as clothing, toys, and shoes were reported in Washington State between June 1, 2012 and March 1, 2013 as containing a chemical on the State's list of 66 Chemicals of High Concern to Children. These products were reported by manufacturers in compliance with requirements under Washington State's Children's Safe Products Act of 2008. A total of 41 chemicals were reported and included toxic metals such as cadmium, mercury, cobalt, antimony, and molybdenum, and organic compounds such as methyl ethyl ketone and ethylene glycol as well as phthalates. Washington's first-in-the-nation reporting requirement provides previously unavailable information to consumers, retailers, and policy makers. Manufacturers complying with the reporting requirements are exhibiting transparency and responsibility. This reporting shows that thousands of children's products currently contain toxic chemicals, underscoring the need for stronger regulations at the state and national level.

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# INTRODUCTION

Children's product makers have begun reporting items such as toys, baby products, and clothing that contain toxic chemicals and are sold in Washington State. They are complying with requirements of Washington State's Children's Safe Products Act. Major retailers such as Walmart, Gap, Gymboree, H & M, J. C. Penney, and Claire's acted responsibly by providing product information in response to this first-in-the-nation state chemical reporting requirement. Thanks to this reporting program and the companies that are complying with it, the public now has previously unavailable information about toxic chemicals in products used to care for children. Legislatures that consider adopting reporting requirements in other states provide opportunities for companies to demonstrate transparency and for parents and agencies to have access to important information.

## WASHINGTON STATE'S CHILDREN'S SAFE PRODUCTS ACT

In 2008, the Washington State Legislature passed the Children's Safe Products Act, which required manufacturers to report the presence of toxic chemicals in products designed for children. Washington State agencies created the 66-chemical Reporting List of Chemicals of High Concern to Children, listing compounds that are known developmental or reproductive toxins, endocrine disruptors, or carcinogens that are found in children's products and pose an exposure risk to children. Reporting began phasing in for manufacturers in 2012, requiring companies to provide information on the levels of toxic chemicals, the category of product containing them, and the reason for their use. The Children's Safe Products Act also restricted the amount of lead, cadmium, and phthalates allowed in children's products sold in Washington State after July 1, 2009, though these standards were partially pre-empted by the federal Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008. The database of Children's Safe Products Acts Reports is available on the Washington State Department of Ecology website at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/cspa/search.html>.



# MAJOR FINDINGS

1. More than 5,000 products have been reported to date in Washington State as containing a chemical on the State's list of 66 Chemicals of High Concern to Children. Products reported include children's clothing and footwear, toys, bedding, and baby products.
2. Toxic metals such as mercury, cadmium, cobalt, antimony, and molybdenum were reported as well as phthalates, solvents including ethylene glycol and methyl ethyl ketone, and a compound used in silicone known as octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane (D4).

Appendix A outlines the types of children's products reported in Washington State from June 1, 2012 through March 1, 2013 and Appendix B provides a list of all chemicals and how often they were reported. As additional reports are phased in, more chemicals and more product types may be reported.

## TOXIC METALS

We've all heard about the dangers of toxic metals such as cadmium, mercury, and lead. But cobalt, antimony and molybdenum? Manufacturers have succeeded in removing lead from children's products but they aren't taking the high road by eliminating all toxic metals from products and manufacturing processes. Table 1 provides a list of toxic metals reported and the types of products in which they are found.

**Table 1: Toxic Metals Reported in Children's Products in Washington**

Chemical	# of Products	Type of Product	Companies Reporting
Mercury	30	Toys, clothing, games	Target, Walmart
Cadmium	49	Clothing, toys, arts & crafts supplies	Walmart
Molybdenum	267	Clothing, toys, shoes	Gap, H & M, Mattel
Antimony	525	Clothing, toys, baby products	Gap, Gymboree, Nike, H & M
Cobalt	1,228	Toys, accessories, bedding	Gap, Gymboree, Nike, H & M, J. C. Penney



### Sustainability

Many thanks to companies such as H & M and Gap, Inc. that have voluntarily adopted chemical restriction lists as part of their companies' commitment to environmental sustainability. This reduces the flow of toxic chemicals into consumer products and the environment. But at the same time, even companies with chemical restriction lists reported hundreds of products in Washington, so voluntary restrictions don't go far enough. We need strong policies that will phase out toxic chemicals and require health and safety testing for all chemicals. Now that's sustainability!

## PHTHALATES

Phthalates are hormone-disrupting chemicals most often used to make plastics soft. Babies and children are especially vulnerable to these chemicals and they are found nearly everywhere in the home. Table 2 provides a list of phthalates reported and the types of products in which they are found.

**Table 2: Phthalates Reported in Children’s Products in Washington**

Chemical	# of Products	Type of Product	Companies Reporting
Butyl benzyl phthalate (BBP)	99	Clothing, toys, baby products	Walmart, Triboro Quilt
Di-2-ethyl hexyl phthalate	151	Baby products, clothing, toys	Walmart, Triboro Quilt
Dibutyl phthalate	134	Baby products, toys, bedding	Walmart, Triboro Quilt
Diethyl phthalate	112	Clothing, bedding, baby products	Walmart, Gap, Triboro Quilt
Diisodecyl phthalate (DIDP)	44	Toys, clothing	Walmart
Diisononyl phthalate (DINP)	100	Clothing, toys, arts & crafts supplies	Gap, Walmart
Di-n-hexyl phthalate	38	Toys, arts & crafts supplies	Walmart
Di-n-octyl phthalate (DnOP)	94	Bedding, clothing, toys	Walmart, Triboro Quilt



### The Toxic Treadmill Strikes Again!

Graco, the popular manufacturer of children’s products, pledged in 2012 to stop using the toxic chlorinated Tris flame retardants TDCPP, TCEP, and TCPP as well as the flame retardant mixture Firemaster 550 in its products. Now Graco has reported to Washington State that it is using another harmful flame retardant, TBBPA (tetrabromobisphenol A), in baby carriers, baby car and booster seats, play pens, and baby swings. TBBPA is a persistent toxic chemical believed to impact thyroid hormone as well as nervous system function, and it is acutely toxic to aquatic organisms. This swapping out of one harmful chemical for another in the manufacture of these products is yet another example of what we call “The Toxic Treadmill.” Say it ain’t so, Graco!

## TOXIC CHEMICALS IN CHILDREN’S PRODUCTS – WHY THE CONCERN?

As this reporting shows, manufacturers continue to use toxic chemicals in widely varying components of children’s products. For example, chemicals ranging from cadmium to dibutyl phthalate can be present in synthetic polymers that are part of the soles of a child’s shoe, or in the ink used to print a graphic on a child’s T-shirt. Children may be exposed when they put items in their mouths or products are used on their skin, or when the chemicals escape into indoor air or house dust. Children often use every day items in unexpected ways, such as chewing on their shoe or their T-shirt, so products containing hazardous chemicals can result in unanticipated chemical exposures. It’s important, too, to think about how all of these toxic chemicals get into children’s products in the first place and where else they may be going. Workplace and environmental exposures may occur during the manufacturing process or when toxic-containing products are cleaned or disposed of. The entire toxic chemical economy can bring health and environmental impacts beyond the scope of the intended use of individual products.

# CONCLUSIONS

Washington's toxic chemical reporting system has revealed over 5,000 children's products containing Chemicals of High Concern to Children, information which was previously unavailable to families and to the general public. Conclusions we can draw from this wealth of new information are:

- 1. Reporting requirements work. Washington State has successfully implemented this first-of-its-kind reporting program and has provided the information to the public.**
  - Thanks to the companies that reported, families now have more information than ever in choosing products that they use to care for their children. Washington State has made the reported information on toxics in products freely available online.
  - Implementation of this reporting requirement was achievable for business and for state government. While it is likely that more businesses should be reporting, the companies that have led the way show that reporting is feasible.
- 2. Dozens of harmful chemicals are still in products, including cancer-causing metals such as cadmium and antimony, hormone-disrupting phthalates, and neurotoxic mercury.**
  - These reports show us that dozens of chemicals of high concern to children are still used in the production of thousands of children's products.
- 3. Stronger laws are needed to remove these chemicals from children's products.**
  - The large numbers of harmful chemicals that remain in children's products demonstrate the need for stronger laws to remove these chemicals from homes and from the environment. The use of hazardous chemicals in children's products is unnecessary.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

**1. More states should pass reporting requirement laws to obtain information on toxic chemicals in products.**

This type of reporting requirement gives key information to consumers and helps policymakers prioritize action. States have their own local needs, some manufacturers sell their products only within certain regions or states, and many states have their own local environmental concerns. Therefore, states should be passing their own reporting requirement laws.

**2. States should be able to take action to get toxic chemicals out of children's products.**

Unfortunately many companies choose to continue to manufacture and sell products containing toxic chemicals until policy changes force them to stop. State policies should give authority to state agencies to restrict use of toxic chemicals in children's products.

**3. Retailers should Mind the Store.**

The top 10 retailers in the U.S. - Walmart, Target, Costco, Lowe's, CVS, Walgreens, Best Buy, Kroger, Safeway, and Home Depot - can play a major role in moving the marketplace toward safer products by removing those containing hazardous chemicals from their shelves. Mind the Store is a campaign led by the national coalition Safer Chemicals Healthy Families with the goal of moving retailers to stop selling products containing toxic chemicals. Information on Mind the Store can be accessed at <http://www.mindthestore.org>.

**4. Congress should pass the Safe Chemicals Act to phase out the most toxic chemicals and require health and safety testing for all chemicals.**

Federal legislation should quickly phase out the worst chemicals, including persistent toxic chemicals, as well as those that cause cancer, disrupt hormones, cause reproductive harm and infertility, or cause learning disabilities. Since states have shown leadership in protecting health from toxic chemicals, the new law must preserve the right of states to protect their residents with stronger standards.

# APPENDIX A

**Types of Children's Products Reported  
June 1, 2012 – March 1, 2013 in Washington State**

Product Type	Count (#)	Includes
Clothing	2,721	Dresses, undergarments, pajamas, costumes, headwear, handwear, overalls, pants, stocking, slippers, shirts, shorts, tops, trousers, socks, sweaters, pullovers
Footwear	882	Athletic footwear, boots, indoor footwear, shoes
Toys, Games	576	Balloons, bath & pool toys, games, dolls, educational toys, musical toys, occasion supplies, outdoor games, play structures, dolls, toy vehicles, blocks, puppets, role play toys
Jewelry	297	Bracelets, necklaces, rings, sports neckwear, tattoos
Accessories	275	Belts, handkerchiefs, suspenders, tiaras
Baby Products	216	Baby car seats, bibs, baby/infant stimulation, baby bath safety products, changing mats
Bedding	202	Sheets, valances, throws, duvet covers, mattresses, pillows, sleeping bags
Arts & Crafts Supplies	155	Artists accessories, art supplies, jewelry craft supplies, card making supplies, pottery craft supplies
Cleansing/Washing	49	Skin care products, wipes
Cosmetics	43	Lip balm, lip cosmetics, eye cosmetics, nail care
Hair Products	14	Hair color, conditioner
Furniture	11	Bed frames
Fragrances	5	

Compiled from Washington State Department of Ecology's  
Children's Safe Products Reports Database

# APPENDIX B

**Chemicals of High Concern to Children Reported in Children's Products  
June 1, 2012 – March 1, 2013 in Washington State**

Chemical	Count (#)	Chemical	Count (#)
Cobalt & cobalt compounds	1,228	Formaldehyde	22
Ethylene glycol	1,066	Toluene	22
Antimony & antimony compounds	525	Ethylbenzene	17
Methyl ethyl ketone	469	Ethyl paraben	15
Octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane (D4)	413	n-Butanol	12
Styrene	294	Butyl paraben	10
Molybdenum & molybdenum compounds	267	2-Ethylhexanoic acid	8
Di-2-ethylhexyl phthalate	151	Bisphenol A	8
Dibutyl phthalate	134	C.I. solvent yellow 14	7
Diethyl phthalate	112	Tetrabromobisphenol A	7
Diisononyl phthalate (DINP)	100	Phenol	6
Butyl benzyl phthalate (BBP)	99	Phthalic anhydride	6
Di-n-octyl phthalate (DnOP)	94	2,2',3,3',4,4',5,5',6,6'- Decabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-290)	4
Cadmium & cadmium compounds	49	2-Ethyl-hexyl-4-methoxycinnamate	4
Arsenic & arsenic compounds	45	Acrylonitrile	3
Diisodecyl phthalate (DIDP)	44	2-Methoxyethanol	2
Methyl paraben	41	para-Chloroaniline	2
Di-n-hexyl phthalate	38	Benzene, pentachloro-	1
Propyl paraben	35	Methylene chloride	1
Mercury & mercury compounds	30	Phenol, 4-octyl	1
4-Nonylphenol; 4-NP and its isomer mixtures CAS 84852-15-3 and 25154-52-3	26		

Compiled from Washington State Department of Ecology's  
Children's Safe Products Reports Database

To view the rationale for inclusion of chemicals on Washington State's Reporting List of Chemicals of High Concern to Children, please see the document, "Children's Safe Products Act; Rationale for Chemicals listed under Reporting Requirements," prepared by Washington State's Department of Health, <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/cspa/pdf/CHCCrationale.pdf>.

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