WECF guide

Possible health effects?

- Very toxic, carcinogenic and mutagenic
- Disrupts the reproductive and hormone system, and increases cancer risk
- Carcinogenic and impaires fertility. Effects on the developing brain
- Disrupts development and the hormone system, toxic to the reproductive system
- Carcinogenic, toxic by inhalation, impaires fertility, disrupts development of child's brain
- Carcinogenic, mutagenic and toxic to reproduction
- Disrupts the hormone system
- Carcinogenic, disrupts fertility
- Disrupts development and the hormone system.
- Impaires fertility
- Very toxic to aquatic life, disrupts the hormone system

General Tips

- Less is more! Buy fewer toys, aim for quality over quantity.
- Avoid very cheap toys because they often contain more hazardous chemicals.
- Do not buy a toy with a strong chemical or perfumed smell or if it feels uncomfortable to the touch.
- For young children: make sure that no small parts can be pulled off and swallowed.
- Unpack any new toy and leave it outside to let some of the hazardous chemicals evaporate.
- Please note that the CE label does not guarantee safety.
- If available notice the German GS mark. It is independent and shows that legal guidelines have been applied.
- For more information, please visit our website www.wecf.eu

Do Ask!

- Please ask your retailer. They must respond within 45 days to let you know whether a toy contains certain substances. Unfortunately, this information is mandatory only for some substances. Nevertheless, the more customers that ask, the faster producers will change their production policy. So please keep on asking. By doing this you will protect the health of your child and influence the producer!

Hazardous chemicals

- Aniline
- Bisphenol-A
- Brominated Flame Retardants
- Cadmium
- Chlorinated paraffins
- Chromium
- Formaldehyde
- Lead
- Monophthalate
- Organotin
- Perfluorinated chemicals
- Phthalates (softeners)
- Talc

Possible health effects?

- Skin irritation, obstructing mucous membranes and introducing
- Disrupts the respiratory and hormone system, and lowers sperm count
- Decreases development of the hormone system, lekes to the reproductive system
- Carcinogenic, toxic by inhalation, impaires fertility, disrupts development of child's brain
- Carcinogenic, disrupts the hormone system
- Carcinogenic, mutagens, lead to deteriorate sperm, lowers sperm count
- Carcinogenic and impaires fertility. Effects on the developing brain
- Disrupts the hormone system

Safe toys

- Dolls
- Cuddly toys
- Wooden toys
- Plastic
- Art materials & cosmetics
- Electronic toys

Legend

Protect children – avoid hazardous chemicals!

Based on SIN-List www.chemsec.org

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Links

www.wecf.eu
www.projectnesting.org
www.healthytoys.org
www.ethicalconsumer.org/FreeBuyersGuides/babychild/toys.aspx
www.healthyenvironmentforkids.ca

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WECF is campaigning for toys without hazardous chemicals both in the political arena and with the manufacturers. Please help us!

You want to know more? www.wecf.eu

WECF Euronews, Brusselsbranch, France

Women in Europe for a Common Future

WECF Germany, Netherlands, France

Women in Europe for a Common Future

WECF guide
**Tips**

* Avoid buying small dolls. They are often classified as toys and therefore not subject to legal restrictions on chemicals. * Buy rag dolls or organic dolls with eco-labels. * Wash stuffed toys before use.

**Wooden toys**

The vast array of wooden toys available includes puzzles, building blocks, dolls’ houses, and farm and medical sets. Painted wooden toys are usually completely safe, but some wooden toys can be hazardous. Some of the wooden puzzles passed the German eco-safety test (Ökotest) in November 2008. However, toys containing glue are more likely to contain the carcinogenic formaldehyde. Parents should beware of varnishes and paints that can contain lead or other heavy metals.

**Tips**

* Choose natural rubber toys. * Look for the label ‘PVC-free’ or ‘Phthalate-free’.

**Art materials & cosmetics**

This category includes crayons, pens, paints, playdoh, finger and face paints, and cosmetic sets, which can contain phthalates. In 2009, the Canadian Department of Federal Health found unacceptable high levels of heavy metals like lead, arsenic, mercury, and antimony in children’s face paints. Dolls containing glue are even more likely to cause harm. Some of these products have been found unacceptable high levels of formaldehyde and phthalates. In 2009, the Canadian Department of Federal Health found unacceptable high levels of heavy metals like lead, arsenic, mercury, and antimony in children’s face paints.

**Tips**

* Check out Greenpeace’s ratings of electronics companies on their toxic policy: - http://www.greenpeace.org/international/campaigns/toxics/ • Tips for children avoiding buying electronic and battery toys. — http://www.greenpeace.org/international/campaigns/toxics/ • Protect children – avoid hazardous chemicals!

**Dolls**

Dolls can contain a wide range of hazardous chemicals as they are made of plastic, plush and stuffing, outer clothes and jewellery or certain electronic components. Dolls are less likely to contain phthalates. However, they can also be hazardous. Many dolls contain synthetic substances, and toxic metals and other hazardous substances.

**Tips**

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**Tips**

* Choose natural rubber toys. * Look for the label ‘PVC-free’ or ‘Phthalate-free’. * Avoid products which small children might swallow.

**Plastic**

Soft plastic toys such as rubber ribbon toys, ball, bath toys, etc., can contain hormone disrupting phthalates. There are numerous research and European sources. In 2004 it was discovered that Unisoy (plastic balls) contained up to 50% of phthalates. Hard plastic toys are safer because they are less likely to contain phthalates. However, they can also sometimes contain heavy metals and other hazardous substances.

**Tips**

* Do not buy fragranced toys, as these can trigger lifelong fragrance allergies, which cannot be cured. * Choose products with food and plant emissions and without phthalates. * Make your own finger paints or pastels.

**Electronic toys**

These include battery-powered and electronic products such as games consoles, game boys, mobile phones, electric cars, trains and computers. Hazards include brominated flame retardants as well as poisoning risks from leaking batteries. In 2004, it was discovered that Scooby Doo trains and computers contained up to 1.5% of brominated flame retardants. There have been numerous global and European scares. In 2008, the Swedish National Environment Board discovered that many of the toys sold in Sweden contained unacceptable levels of brominated flame retardants.

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**Cuddly Toys**

This category includes teddy bears, plush and stuff toys. Toys with long or synthetic fur often contain allergens and hazardous substances. Fur often contains allergens and hazardous substances. Fur often contains allergens and hazardous substances. Fur often contains allergens and hazardous substances. Fur often contains allergens and hazardous substances. Fur often contains allergens and hazardous substances. Fur often contains allergens and hazardous substances. Fur often contains allergens and hazardous substances. Fur often contains allergens and hazardous substances.

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