

## Do you know that there are toxic chemicals in common household products? Here are some examples.



Toxic cleaning chemicals can cause asthma, cancer, and infertility and can damage our hormone and nervous systems.



Many personal care products like shampoo, conditioner, after shave, lotion and makeup have ingredients that are known or suspected to cause cancer, birth defects and reproductive damage.



Common ingredients in plastics, pesticides, and toys have been shown to disrupt hormone systems, harm child brain and sexual development, and impair long-term memory.

**Connecticut has become a leader among the states on reducing exposure to toxics and will continue to work with a wide network to build a healthy economy based on safe products, safe communities, and safe jobs.**

### JOIN US! We promote:

- Protecting health and the environment
- Creating safe workplaces and enhancing occupational safety and health
- Treating all communities equally and promoting environmental justice
- Fostering innovation to help businesses phase out highly hazardous toxic chemicals and shift to safer alternatives

We invite you to work with us to establish new government policies to prevent harm from toxic hazards! We need stronger chemical safety standards to protect our health and the environment. Safer substances, green chemistry, and safer manufacturing will reduce toxic pollution.



The Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut is a growing partnership of citizens and organizations working for safer alternatives to toxic chemicals. Please visit our website, like our Facebook page, and follow us on Twitter.



For more information, visit our website or give us a call • [www.safehealthyct.org](http://www.safehealthyct.org) • 860.232.6232

### END NOTES

- 1 Reducing Environmental Cancer Risk: What we can do now, the President's Cancer Panel [Internet]. Bethesda: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; [cited 2010 April]. Available from: [http://deainfo.nci.nih.gov/advisory/pcp/annualReports/pcp08-09rpt/PCP\\_Report\\_08-09\\_508.pdf](http://deainfo.nci.nih.gov/advisory/pcp/annualReports/pcp08-09rpt/PCP_Report_08-09_508.pdf).
- 2 Safer Chemicals Healthy Families, "Chemicals and Our Health: Why Recent Science is a Call to Action" (2012).
- 3 Trasande, L. and Y. Liu (2011) Reducing the staggering costs of environmental disease in children, estimated at \$76.6 billion in 2008. Health Affairs 30 (5):1-8.
- 4 Environmental Working Group. Body burden—the pollution in newborns [Internet]. Washington (DC): EWG; 2005 Jul 14 [cited 2009 Jul 6]. Available from: [http://www.ewg.org/reports\\_content/bodyburden2/pdf/bodyburden2\\_final-r2.pdf](http://www.ewg.org/reports_content/bodyburden2/pdf/bodyburden2_final-r2.pdf).
- 5 "Estimated Use of Industrial Chemicals in Connecticut", Morse, Tim, Jesse Wagner and Nancy Simcox, Connecticut Medicine, March 2012, Volume 76, no. 3, p. 134.

Coalition For A  
**Safe & Healthy**  
Connecticut

Leading the  
fight to reduce  
toxic chemical  
exposures in our  
everyday lives

The Coalition for a Safe & Healthy Connecticut is leading statewide and local campaigns to reduce and eliminate toxic chemical exposures in our everyday lives — in buildings, schools and workplaces, air, water and food, and in consumer products.

**“We are swimming in a sea of chemicals at work and at home, most of them not fully tested and, practically speaking, unregulated. Promoting safer alternatives is an urgent and essential public health measure.”**

Tim Morse, PhD, CPE

Former Chair of the Chemical Innovations Institute and Associate Professor, Occupational and Environmental Health Center, University of Connecticut Health Center

# THE PROBLEM

Toxic chemicals in everyday products — in our bodies, homes, workplaces, and communities. What's wrong with this picture?



## SCIENTISTS SOUND ALARM FOR OUR HEALTH

In 2010, the President's Cancer Panel Report stated that exposure to toxic chemicals is a serious risk factor for many cancers and called for urgent reform of ineffective chemical laws<sup>1</sup>.

A growing number of scientific studies show that toxic substances are accumulating in all of us and are contributing to an epidemic of chronic diseases and disorders. Scientists have found that over 180 human illnesses are linked to toxic chemicals, and even small amounts can cause damage.

Health effects include many forms of cancer, behavioral disabilities for children, Parkinson's disease, chemical sensitivities, endometriosis, autism, asthma, and many other illnesses.

Did you know that...

- Childhood brain cancer and leukemia has increased by 20% since 1975
- One in three women and nearly one in two men will face cancer in their lifetimes
- Learning and developmental disabilities affect nearly one in six U.S. children<sup>2</sup>

Researchers have estimated that \$74.3 billion in annual U.S. costs are attributable to environmental chemicals.<sup>3</sup>

"Current research demonstrates a growing body of scientific knowledge that links chemicals in our environment to a number of preventable illnesses. We, the citizens of the state of Connecticut and the Nation, need to be proactive in our approach. This is an issue directly related to the health of the Public. Our approach should include educating the public so that they will make better choices and the creation of policy that addresses elimination of chemicals in order to protect future generations."

Mary Jane M. Williams, PhD, RN, Chair GRC,  
Connecticut Nurses Association

## PEOPLE ESPECIALLY AT RISK

- **Children are especially vulnerable.** Our babies are now born pre-polluted! Even a small exposure to a toxic chemical during critical points of fetal development can cause long-term, irreversible damage. One particularly concerning study examined the umbilical cord blood of newborn babies and found an average of 200 toxic chemicals in these infants.<sup>4</sup>



- **Workers who regularly come in contact with dangerous substances receive even higher doses than the general public.** The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration has adopted workplace exposure limits for only about 7% of the chemicals used in the U.S. in high quantities.<sup>5</sup>
- **Minority and low-income populations bear a disproportionate share of the adverse impacts of pollution** and suffer from increased health hazards compared to society as a whole. The siting of hazardous facilities, some cultures' reliance on fishing and hunting for food, and other factors contribute to the inequitable burden.

## MANY GOVERNMENTS ALREADY TAKING ACTION

In 2006, the European Union passed a major law known as REACH—Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals—which phased out some 1,400 highly hazardous toxins and requires companies to register and provide safety data for some 30,000 hazardous chemicals. Companies that continue to use "chemicals of high concern" will not be able to sell their products in Europe, which is now the biggest market in the world.

# THE SOLUTION

We can replace toxic chemicals with safer alternatives.



Photo: Susan Eastwood

## WE CAN'T SHOP OUR WAY OUT OF THIS PROBLEM!

The Government should protect us from known toxic hazards by requiring that the safest feasible materials and processes are used to meet a particular need.

### Safe Products Made Safely

Replacing toxic chemicals with safer alternatives will help prevent illnesses and disabilities that burden our families and economy. Companies seeking to sell in an increasingly environmentally conscious global marketplace will be more competitive if they take toxins out of their products. A new wave of green chemistry innovation and development of safer substitutes will catalyze a healthier economy in Connecticut, adding jobs and growth from clean technology.

### Progress Has Been Made, But We Need To Do More!

Connecticut was the first state in the U.S. to pass laws banning Bisphenol-A (BPA), an endocrine disruptor, from baby bottles, infant formula cans and reusable food containers, as well as from thermal register receipt paper. We have also banned cadmium from children's jewelry, lead from children's toys and established the Chemical Innovations Institute to help businesses that want to shift to safer chemicals.

In the absence of Federal reform, states are taking meaningful steps to identify chemicals of concern, require disclosure and reduce exposure. In the past ten years, 19 states have adopted more than 93 chemical safety policies despite intense industry opposition.

Despite some progress, there is much more work to be done. **We need YOUR help** to pass laws to protect our families from the toxic soup that surrounds us!

**Your help is needed** to achieve smarter laws, safer products and workplaces, a cleaner environment, and a healthier economy. Please join us! Membership is free for groups and individuals! We send out a bimonthly newsletter with updates on our work and occasional action alerts with quick and easy ways for you to help!

**Be part of the solution!** Join the Coalition for a Safe & Healthy Connecticut by visiting our website [www.safehealthyct.org](http://www.safehealthyct.org) or by calling 860-232-6232.

## IT'S TIME TO MODERNIZE U.S. SAFETY STANDARDS

While Europe and other countries are restricting dangerous toxins, the U.S. has fallen behind. Fundamental flaws in government policies allow damage to our health and environment.

Did you know that...

- Fewer than 2% of the more than 80,000 synthetic chemicals in commerce have been reviewed for safety
- There is no requirement that new chemicals undergo safety testing before being released for use in manufacturing
- The government usually takes action only after harm is proven and widespread
- In fact, only 5 chemicals have been banned under the 1976 Toxic Substances Control Act. Even asbestos has not been able to be fully regulated under this weak law.

While there is bipartisan consensus that these laws must be updated and strengthened, Congress has failed to act. That is why it is so important for states like Connecticut to pass laws to protect our citizens from toxic chemicals in consumer goods.



## We deserve to know that the products we buy are safe

"We have seen that state laws snowball into changes in national toxic chemical policy. In 2012, so many states had passed laws banning BPA from baby bottles and sippy cups that manufacturers gave up their fierce battle against bans and removed the toxic chemical from all such products nationwide."

Sarah Doll, National Director for Safer States