



DETAILS OF TOXINS FOUND IN PRODUCTS TESTED

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Lead – known neurotoxin linked to irreversible developmental and nervous system damage. Recently the American Academy of Pediatrics recommended a level of 40 parts per million (ppm) of lead as the maximum that should be allowed in children's products. However, the only existing standard for lead in toys is a federal recall standard for lead in paint, set at 600 ppm. HealthyToys.org found lead in 35% of all the products tested, and seventeen percent (17%) of the products had levels above the 600 ppm. The testing detected more than 6,700 ppm in Dollar Store animal figurines; 3,056 ppm in a Hannah Montana Pop Star Card Pack; and 1,700 ppm lead in a pair of Circo baby shoes.

Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC / Vinyl) - HealthyToys.org determined products were made with PVC plastic by measuring their chlorine content. PVC is a problematic plastic from an environmental health perspective because it creates major hazards throughout its life cycle and contains additives that can be dangerous to human health. Phthalates are chemicals that are very commonly added to PVC to make it soft and flexible, however, they can leach out of the plastic. Exposure to phthalates is linked to birth defects of the genitals and altered levels of reproductive hormones in baby boys. There are currently no federal regulations limiting phthalates in children's products. California recently passed a ban of several phthalates in children's products, and Europe has restricted the use of phthalates in children's toys and child care items. 47% percent of toys (excluding jewelry) tested by HealthyToys.org were PVC.

Cadmium – Cadmium is a known human carcinogen used in coatings and pigments in plastic and paint. Currently there are no mandatory restrictions on cadmium in children's products in the U.S. HealthyToys.org found cadmium at levels greater than 100 ppm in 2.9% of products -- 22 of the 764 products tested for cadmium-- including painted toys, PVC toys, backpacks, lunch boxes and bibs.

Safer toys available - 28% of the products tested did not contain any lead, cadmium, arsenic, mercury or PVC, including many made in China. Examples of healthier toys include: Amazing Animals Hippo by Fisher-Price (made in China); Caterpillar Grasping Toy, Melissa and Doug (made in Vietnam); and B.R. Bruin Stacking Cups (made in China).

HealthyToys.org also tested toys for **arsenic, mercury, bromine, chromium, tin and antimony** chemicals that have all been linked to health problems and have been subject to either regulatory restrictions or voluntary limits set by industry associations. Babies and young children are most vulnerable to health damage since their brains and bodies are still developing and because they frequently put toys into their mouths.