



What are Flame Retardants?

Flame retardants are man-made chemical additives that are used to slow the growth of and prevent fires. They are used in consumer products in an attempt to make them safer, but are made of countless toxic chemicals that are associated with cancer and other adverse health effects.

Where are Flame Retardants Found?

Flame retardants are often used in **furniture, upholstery, mattresses, electronics, building materials**, home furnishings such as **carpets** and **curtains**, as well as transportation products, such as **seat covers, seat fillers**, and **bumpers**. As products age, the chemicals can release into the air or dust then enter the body.

For a safer option, look for products labeled as flame retardant free. In addition, vacuum and/or dust the house often, and avoid handling exposed foam in furniture products, such as couch cushions or mattresses.

Why are Flame Retardants Concerning?

There are hundreds of flame retardants that are made of different combinations of chemicals. Halogenated- and organophosphate-based flame retardants have been linked to endocrine and thyroid disruption, impacts to the immune system, reproductive toxicity, cancer, and adverse effects on fetal and child development and neurologic function, according to the National Institute of Health (NIH). Many of these chemicals do not break down and can bioaccumulate in the environment.

Where can I find more information about Flame Retardants?

To learn more about this hazardous chemical, please visit the following organization's websites:

Scientific Government Resources:

- [National Institute of Health \(NIH\): Flame Retardants](#)
- [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\): Consumer Fact Sheet on Flame Retardants](#)

Consumer Support Information:

- [Environmental Working Group: EWG's tips to avoid flame retardants](#)

NOTE: All links for additional information are trusted sources. If you would not to know more, or have questions, please contact us at info@CENSWPA.org.