

WHERE TOXIC CHEMICALS CAN BE FOUND

Toxic chemicals can be found in households, work places, and the natural environment. It is desirable for the American public to know where toxic chemicals can be found. A list of places and products where toxic chemicals may be found are listed below.

Homes: There may be toxic chemicals in consumer products like paints, solvents, pesticides, cleaning products, new carpets, plastics, electrical products, lead paint, children's toys, decaying Venetian blinds, pencils, crayons and chalk imported from foreign countries.

Flame Retardants: Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) are used as flame-retardants and are used in textiles and electronic products despite the use of safer alternative

Tobacco Smoke and Other Indoor Air Pollutants: Indoor air pollutants such as dust mold, pets and roaches can be harmful to general health.

Household Products: There may chemicals of unknown toxicity in plastic water bottles, food containers, linings in metal food cans, soap and shampoo.

Food/Meat: There may be pesticide residue and pollutants associated with foods such as PCB's in meat fat, processed dairy products and fish.

Cadmium, Chromium and Dioxin: These chemicals are taken from soil into root vegetables and may be linked to birth defects and neurological system abnormalities

Schools: One quarter of schools in America have inadequate ventilation, and poor air quality. Indoor air is 5 to 100 times more polluted than outdoor air. In addition, there is mold, lead in drinking water, and pesticides in lawn care in some schools.

Workplaces: Children's parents who work with pesticides, wood preservatives, certain chemicals, and chlorinated solvents have more children born with birth defects. Work clothes can transfer toxic chemicals to other clothes in the family

Excerpts from Proceedings of a National Wingspread Summit, "Framing a National Blueprint for Health Promotion and Disability Prevention, *Pollution, Toxic Chemicals and Mental Retardation*, Distributed at the AAMR and LDA Congressional Briefing, "Chemical Exposure Children's Health and Disability", May 10, 2005, Washington DC