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, disrupts the hormone system
- Carcinogenic, mutagenic, toxic: causes severe burns, impaires fertility
- 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 outdoors 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

Hazardous chemicals

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Chemical</th>
<th>Possible health effects</th>
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<td>Aniline</td>
<td>Sharp taste, chromosome abnormality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bisphenol-A</td>
<td>Disrupts the reproductive and hormone system, and tomatoes can rot</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brominated Flame Retardants</td>
<td>Disrupts development and the hormone system, leads to the reproduction system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cadmium</td>
<td>Carcinogenic, toxic by inhalation, impaires fertility, disrupts development of child brain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chlorinated paraffins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chromium</td>
<td>Carcinogenic, mutagens, locus: breast cancer locus, reproductive system</td>
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<tr>
<td>Formaldehyde</td>
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<td>Lead</td>
<td>Carcinogenic and impaires fertility. Effects on the developing brain</td>
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<td>Mordphenol</td>
<td>Disrupts the hormone system</td>
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<td>Organising</td>
<td>Carcinogenic, disrupts the hormone system and fertility</td>
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<td>Perfluorinated chemicals</td>
<td>Carcinogenic, disrupts the hormone system</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phthalates (softeners)</td>
<td>Sharp taste, impaires the hormone system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triclosan</td>
<td>Sharp taste, impaires the hormone system</td>
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</table>

How this toy guide can help you?

- There are a few tested labels and no labelling requirements for chemical ingredients in toys. This makes the purchase of safe products difficult.
- The WECF toys guide provides information on hazardous chemicals and gives practical tips on how you can avoid them.
- WECF is campaigning for toys without hazardous chemicals both in the political arena and the manufacturers. Please help us!

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 voluntary only for some substances. Nevertheless, the more customers that ask, the faster producers will change their production policy.
- Unpack any toy first and leave it outdoors to let some of the hazardous chemicals evaporate.
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You want to know more?

www.wecf.eu

Links

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

Legend

- Protect children – avoid hazardous chemicals!
- Based on SIN-List www.chemsec.org

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WECF Germany, Netherlands, France

Women in Europe for a Common Future

www.wecf.eu

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<th>Women in Europe for a Common Future</th>
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- Chromium
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- Mordphenol
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Dolls

Wooden toys

The vast array of wooden toys available include classic puzzles, building blocks, dolls' heads, and toys with musical features. Unpainted wooden toys are usually completely safe, but some wooden toys can be hazardous. Some of the wooden puzzles passed the German safety test (Bstoff in November 2008, and toyshops and farms etc. Unpainted solid wooden toys are usually completely safe but, some wooden toys can be hazardous. None of the wooden puzzles passed the German safety test (Bstoff in November 2008.

Tips

- Buy unvarnished and unpainted toys wherever possible or watch out for wavelengths distributed in part at age promotion.
- Look for natural or organic monomers and the label for the Eco-Line logo and other eco-labels.
- Wash and air toys before use.
- Wash soft toys or stuff before use.
- Avoid gift toys.

Cuddly Toys

This category includes teddy bears, plush and stuffed toys, toys with long or synthetic fur, toys with plant fibres, and toys with material fibres. They are often classified as decorations, and are less likely to contain the carcinogenic chemical, formaldehyde. Parents should beware of varnishes and paints that can contain lead or other heavy metals.

Tips

- Buy solid wooden toys with air-dried glued parts as possible.
- Look for natural or organic monomers and the label for the Eco-Line logo and other eco-labels.
- Wash and air toys before use.
- Avoid gift toys.

Plastic

Soft plastic toys such as synthetic rubber toys, textiles, hard bath toys, etc., are hazardous. They are less likely to contain phthalates. However, they can also contain heavy metals and other hazardous substances.

Tips

- Do not buy fragranced toys, as they can trigger allergies in some children and有很大 hazards with phthalates.
- Choose products with food or plant colourings and without preservatives.
- Make your own finger paints or pastes.

Electronic toys

These include battery-powered and electronic products such as games consoles, game boys, mobile phones, electric cars, and electronic components. Hazards include formaldehyde and phthalates.

Tips

- Check out Greenpeace's ratings of electronics companies on their toxic policy: http://www.greenpeace.org/international/campaigns/toxics/
- Check out Greenpeace's ecolabel ratings of electronics.

Protect children – avoid hazardous chemicals!

What’s the problem?

Many toys contain synthetic substances, which are known to be hazardous to children’s health. These include softeners used in plastic toys, which can disrupt the hormones of children. The increasing incidence of childhood cancers and the development of a child – sometimes with lifelong consequences. The increasing sensitivity and nervous systems are still developing. Hazardous chemicals are also found in cosmetics, furniture and other everyday products. So children are exposed to a variety of hazardous chemicals from many different sources. Even the smallest amounts of hazardous chemicals can be harmful, especially when they develop as a child – sometimes with lifelong consequences. The increasing sensitivity and nervous systems are still developing.

Tips

- Use non-toxic and organic finishes for all of those hazardous chemicals can be substituted by safer alternatives.
- Avoid hazardous chemicals in toys, as these can trigger lifelong conditions.
- Choose products with food or plant colourings and without preservatives.
- Make your own finger paints or pastes.

Art materials & cosmetics

This category includes crayons, pens, paints, playdoh, and toy paints, and cosmetic products, which can include phthalates. In 2009, the Canadian Department of Federal Health found unacceptable levels of heavy metals in lead, arsenic, mercury, and antimony to children face paints.

Tips

- Check out Greenpeace's ecolabel ratings of cosmetics companies on their toxic policy: http://www.greenpeace.org/international/campaigns/toxics/
- Check out Greenpeace's ecolabel ratings of electronics.

Why are children particularly vulnerable?

Children are more susceptible to exposure to toxic chemicals than adults because of their larger skin surface in proportion to their weight, their higher respiratory volume and increased metabolic rates. Consequently, they avoid more hazardous chemicals in adults. Their lungs, respiratory and nervous systems are still developing. Hazardous chemicals are also found in cosmetics, furniture and other everyday products. So children are exposed to a variety of hazardous chemicals from many different sources. Even the smallest amounts of hazardous chemicals can be harmful, especially when they develop as a child – sometimes with lifelong consequences. The increasing sensitivity and cancer rates demonstrate this.

For more information, please visit our website www.wecf.eu

www.wecf.eu

Baby and child toys

Tips

- *Avoid buying small dolls! They are often classified as decorations, and are less likely to contain the carcinogenic chemical, formaldehyde. Parents should beware of varnishes and paints that can contain lead or other heavy metals.
- Avoid gift toys.

Wooden toys

Tips

- *Look for products from natural or organic monomers and the label for the Eco-Line logo and other eco-labels.
- Wash and air toys before use.
- Wash soft toys or stuff before use.
- Choose natural rubber toys.
- Look for the label ‘PVC-free’ or ‘Phthalate-free’.
- Avoid products which smell strongly of chemicals.

Plastic

Tips

- *Avoid toy paints, pencils, or organic dolls with eco-labels.
- *Avoid gift toys.

Electronic toys

Tips

- *Choose products with food or plant colourings and without preservatives.
- *Make your own finger paints or pastes.

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