

# Flame Retardants in Baby Products: What You Can Do

## What's the problem with flame retardants?

Flame retardant chemicals are added to the foam of **baby products** and furniture to meet the California Furniture Flammability Standard Technical Bulletin 117 (TB117).

They have been linked with:

- Reduced IQ
- Learning disorders
- Reduced fertility
- Thyroid disruption
- Cancer

The average American **home** can contain pound levels of these chemicals. They have been detected in the **bodies** of nearly all North Americans tested.



## Who is most vulnerable?

Fetuses, infants, and toddlers are the most vulnerable because of their hand-to-mouth behavior and proximity to the floor.

They are also most vulnerable to the toxic effects of these chemicals since their organs are still developing.

## Do they prevent fires?

The California standard TB117 has **not** been shown to improve fire safety and is thus presenting an unnecessary health hazard.

- Baby products do not pose a fire hazard
- According to the National Fire Protection Association, **their use in California has not led to a measurable improvement in fire safety**
- Flame retardants may decrease fire safety since they **increase the amount of carbon monoxide and toxic gases produced** when a product does burn

## How are we exposed?

(1) Chemicals leak from products into **dust**



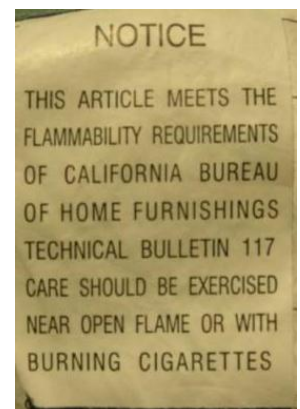
(2) Dust gets on **hands** and **food**



(3) Hands and food get put into **mouths**

## Why are they still used in baby products and furniture?

The producers of the flame retardant chemicals **spend millions of dollars lobbying** at the state and federal levels to create and maintain regulations like TB117 which are favorable to their industry.



## Products we tested

80% of the baby products we tested contained toxic or untested flame retardants



Products with these retardants detected included: **nursing pillows, car seats, sleeping wedges, portable crib mattresses, baby carriers, strollers, and changing table pads**

## How to protect your family



1) Keep dust levels down by **wet mopping** and **vacuuming with a HEPA filter**

2) **Wash your hands** and those of your children often, as hand-to-mouth contact exposes us to flame retardants in dust

3) Purchase baby products and furniture filled with **cotton, polyester, or wool** instead of polyurethane foam

4) Avoid products that use polyurethane foam and have a **TB117 label**, which likely contain chemical flame retardants

5) **Write or call the manufacturer** to inquire whether flame retardants were added to the product



Some safe brands:

**BabyLuxe** organic pads and mattresses

**BabyBjorn** baby carriers

**OrbitBaby** strollers and car seats

**Boppy** nursing pillows

## What should be done?

## Demand toxic-free products for your family

Sample letters at:

[www.greensciencepolicy.org/safekids](http://www.greensciencepolicy.org/safekids)

**1. Tell the California Bureau** that implements the TB117 standard that needs to be updated so products are fire-safe and non-toxic. Contact:

Bureau of Electronic and Appliance Repair,  
Home Furnishings and Thermal Insulation

Email: [homeproducts@dca.ca.gov](mailto:homeproducts@dca.ca.gov)

Phone: (916) 574-2041

Fax: (916) 574-2043

3485 Orange Grove Avenue

North Highlands, California 95660

**2. Contact California state Senators and Assembly Members** and demand to be able to choose fire safe and non-toxic products for your family. Your voice does matter.

Legislators contact information:

[www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html)

## About Us



**Green Science  
Policy Institute**

The **Green Science  
Policy Institute (GSP)**

provides unbiased scientific information

to facilitate more informed decision-making about chemicals used in consumer products in order to protect health and environment worldwide.

Our accomplishments include:

- Prevented over a billion pounds of unneeded flame retardants in electronic housings each year
- Suspended California TB 604, a proposed flammability regulation for bed coverings and pillows
- US Green Building Council LEED Pilot Credit for not using halogenated flame retardants inside buildings

Green Science Policy Institute

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