



Stopping Toxic Toys

Toxic toys pose a great danger to the health and safety of America's most vulnerable population: children. Yet, the U.S. government and U.S. toy manufacturers do not currently provide data to consumers on what is in children's toys and products. Urgent action is needed to start informing the public and protecting our children.

The Problem

- A recent sampling of over 1,200 children's products and over 3,000 components of these products found wide-spread lead use.¹
- Lead was detected in 35 percent of the 1,268 products tested.
- Lead was also detected in 38 percent of the jewelry samples tested.
- 17 percent of the products tested and 33.5 percent of the jewelry tested had lead levels above 600 part per million (ppm). According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, the maximum level of lead allowed in children's products should only be 40 ppm, less than one-tenth of the level found in tested products.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, lead poisoning can affect nearly every system in the body, causing learning disabilities, behavioral problems, and at very high levels, seizures, coma and even death.²
- Testing also found cadmium levels greater than 100 ppm, Arsenic levels greater than 100 ppm, and Mercury levels above 100 ppm in products tested.
- According to the National Center for Environmental Health, child can be exposed to lead in consumer products through normal hand-to-mouth activity, which is a part of normal development.³

The Solution

- Require manufacturers to disclose information on the chemical use and makeup of children's toys and products.
- Require manufacturers to replace dangerous chemicals with safe, non-toxic alternatives.
- Create an interstate clearinghouse to share information and coordinate actions to prevent children's exposure to toxic chemicals.

¹ <http://healthytoys.org/about.findings.php>

² <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/faq/about.htm>

³ <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/faq/toys.htm>