

What are chemicals of concern?

In addition to toxins and carcinogens, there are many substances that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has labeled as “chemicals of concern.” These are chemicals that have not been proven to cause cancer, but that the EPA says raise “serious environmental or health concerns” and “may present an unreasonable risk of injury to health and the environment.”

Two of these chemicals of concern that are commonly found in the home:

Phthalates [silent ph]:	Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs):
<p>Phthalates are endocrine disruptors found in a wide range of household products, such as plastic food containers, carpet backing, shower curtains, air fresheners, PVC, cosmetics, and many other commonly used products. Some studies indicate that 95 percent of Americans have detectable levels of phthalates in their urine</p>	<p>Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) are types of flame retardant that are used to prevent the spread of fire. They are commonly found in foam products (especially those made before 2005) and electronics. You might find PBDEs in foam mattress pads, computer monitors, TVs, hair dryers, fans, and car seats. Despite the fact that PBDEs have been largely phased out, they continue to be present in the dust of most homes, since they break down extremely slowly in the environment.</p>