This brochure is produced by the Green Science Policy Institute in collaboration with the Center for Environmental Health and Physicians for Social Responsibility - Los Angeles.

For more information:

Veena Singla  
Green Science Policy Institute  
(510) 898-1704  
veena@greensciencepolicy.org

Kathryn Alcántar  
Center for Environmental Health  
(510) 655-3900 x315  
kathryn@ceh.org

Martha Dina Argüello  
Physicians for Social Responsibility, Los Angeles  
(213) 689-9170  
marguello@psr-la.org

www.greensciencepolicy.org  
info@greensciencepolicy.org

With thanks to the San Francisco Foundation for their generous support of this work.

“Why should who we are, where we live or how much we make mean we are more poisoned in our own homes?”

-Kathryn Alcántar, Center for Environmental Health
What’s the problem with flame retardants?

Flame retardants are linked with:
- Lower IQ
- Learning Disorders
- Reduced Fertility
- Cancer
- Hormone disruption

Research shows higher amounts of flame retardants in children, people of color and in low-income households. This may be due to lack of access to safer products and safe outdoor places for children to play, poor indoor ventilation, workplace exposures, and proximity to contaminated sites.

Protect your family:

**Look for**
- baby products and furniture without padding, or those filled with polyester, wool or down

**Wash**
- your hands often with soap and water, because hand-to-mouth contact exposes us to flame retardants in dust

**Vacuum & Mop**
- Keep dust levels down by wet mopping and vacuuming with a HEPA filter

**Avoid**
- Avoid or minimize products with polyurethane foam

| Couches |
| Carpet padding |
| Foam Rug Pads |
| Crib mattresses |
| Changing pads |

*Note: Adult mattresses use a different fire-safety technology and are unlikely to contain flame retardants in the foam.*

How do flame retardants get into our bodies?

1. Chemicals leak from products into dust
2. Dust gets on hands & food
3. Hands and food get put into mouths

Some people may have additional exposures to flame retardants from their workplace, especially in professions like chemical manufacturing or the manufacturing and recycling of products containing flame retardants.

Why are flame retardants in my home?

There is an outdated, decades-old regulation called Technical Bulletin 117 (TB117) which causes flame retardants to be added to baby products and furniture.

There is a pound or more of flame retardant chemicals inside products in an average American home or office.

Do they prevent fires?

No! The California standard TB117 has not been shown to improve fire safety. Flame retardant chemicals used to meet TB117 may increase fire hazard by making toxic products when they burn, in addition to the health hazard they pose in products.