AVOID

1. Upholstered Furniture
Furniture with a label stating it meets TB117, the California furniture flammability standard, nearly always contains flame retardants. Even furniture without the label often contains the retardants. There is no data to show that meeting TB117 improves fire safety, but there is data showing that the flame retardants are associated with hormone disruption, developmental toxicity, and cancer in many animal studies and a small number of human studies.

2. Baby Products with Foam
Nursing pillows, highchairs, strollers, baby carriers and other baby products containing polyurethane foam most likely contain toxic flame retardants, especially if they have a label stating they meet TB117. One of these cancer-causing chemicals (remember tris?) was removed from children’s pajamas in the 1970s because it was found to make its way into our bodies.

3. Carpeting & Draperies
Foam carpet padding and some draperies are likely to contain flame retardants. Minimize these in your home to reduce your exposure to the chemicals they contain.

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

 CLEAN...

VACUUM with a HEPA filter & use wet mops
Flame retardants are found in high concentrations in house dust. Minimize your exposure by vacuuming, mopping and washing your hands often.

WASH your hands frequently

BUY...

MATERIALS OTHER THAN FOAM
Furniture & baby gear made with polyester, down, wool, or cotton are unlikely to contain added flame retardant chemicals.

AFTER JANUARY 2014
With your support, we are pushing for the ineffective TB 117 standard to be amended to increase furniture fire safety without the need for toxic flame retardant chemicals. Learn more, stay in the loop, and take action at:

greensciencepolicy.org