

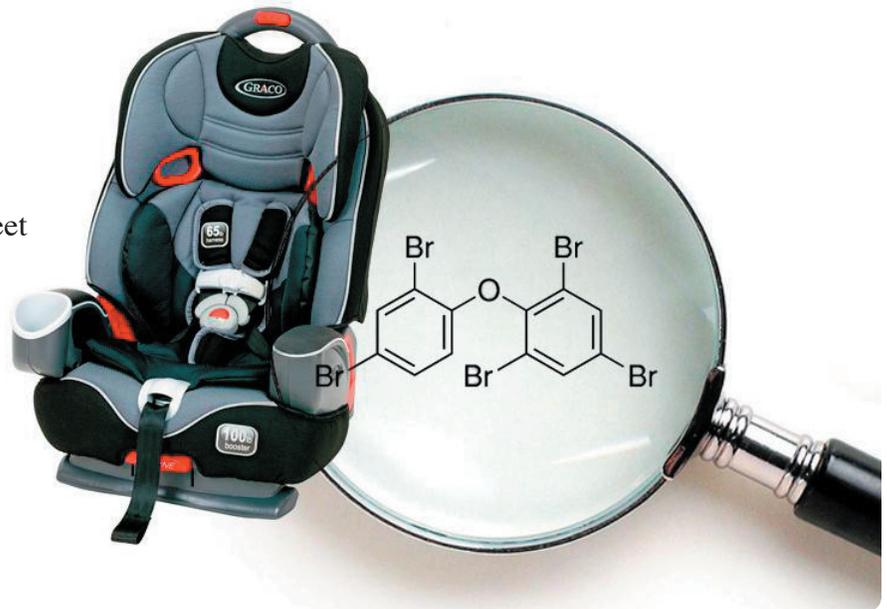
Flame Retardants in Baby Products: What You Can Do

What's the problem with flame retardants?

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

They have been linked with:

- Reduced IQ
- Learning Disorders
- Reduced Fertility
- Thyroid disruption
- Cancer



How are we exposed?

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

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



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



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

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 the chemicals since their organs are still developing.

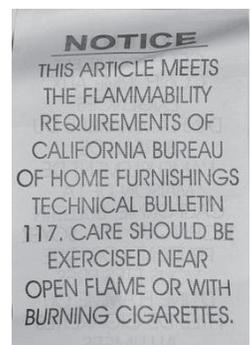
Do they prevent fires?

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

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 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) **Contact manufacturers** to inquire whether retardants were added to products



Some manufacturers that state products do not contain halogenated flame retardants:

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

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

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

About Us

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 contributing to:

- Preventing over a billion pounds of unneeded flame retardants in electronic housings each year
- Suspending California TB604, a proposed flammability standard for bed coverings and pillows
- US Green Building Council LEED Pilot Credit for not using halogenated flame retardants inside buildings

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