EWG action on stain-repellants and antimicrobials

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About EWG

The Environmental Working Group’s mission is to empower people to live healthier lives in a healthier environment. With breakthrough research and education, we drive consumer choice and civic action.

EWG is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to protecting human health and the environment.
Reports

Fast Food Companies Asked To Disclose Use Of Toxic Chemicals In Food Packaging

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2003
WASHINGTON — In the growing controversy over the toxicity and pervasiveness of a group of chemicals, the Environmental Working Group (EWG) today asked the CEOs of nine major fast food corporations to disclose the use of the chemicals in their packaging. The chemicals — fluorinated telomers — can break down into perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), which is used to make Teflon. PFOA is toxic at low levels and is found in more than 90% of Americans.

TRICLOSAN IN CONSUMER PRODUCTS LEADS TO WIDESPREAD POLLUTION IN PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

CREDIBILITY GAP: TOXIC CHEMICALS IN FOOD PACKAGING, DUPONT CLAIMS AT ODDS WITH SCIENCE

No matter how strong the evidence that PFOA may be harming human health, DuPont spokespeople refute it, year after year. "...PFOA does not harm human health or the environment." (See DuPont press quote) Normally, this might be dismissed as a typical corporate interpretation of study results or just another example of a company trying to save its bottom line. But studies by EWG members have linked the presence of PFOA to high levels of the chemical in blood, urine, and other tissues. It is detectable in almost every human being on the planet. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently declared that PFOA is a probable human carcinogen.
Re: DuPont’s failure to submit key health studies under the requirements of TSCA 8(e), 15 U.S.C. § 2607(e).

Dear Administrator Whitman:

As your Agency moves forward with its assessment of public health risks posed by the Teflon-associated chemical known as PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid, also called C8), we write to notify you of apparent violations of reporting requirements under Section 8(e) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (“TSCA”), 15 U.S.C. § 2607(e), by a leading manufacturer and user of PFOA, DuPont, that may be hindering your assessment. We request that you investigate these potential violations of law by DuPont, and require full submission of the relevant studies.

Triclosan-containing antibacterial soaps neither safe nor effective:

Comments from Environmental Working Group on the Food and Drug Administration proposed data requirements for antibacterial soaps

June 16, 2014

Re: Safety and Effectiveness of Consumer Antiseptics; Docket No. FDA-1975-N-0012

Re: Policies Concerning Pesticide Products Containing Nanoscale Materials

Docket No. EPA-HQ-OPP-2010-0197

The Environmental Working Group submits the following in response to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s June 17, 2011, request for comments on a proposed policy regarding nanoscale materials in pesticides. EWG is a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to...
Consumer awareness

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WHERE CAN YOU FIND TRICLOSAN IN YOUR HOME?

Triclosan can be found almost everywhere. Mouse over the map below to see common household products and furnishings that may contain triclosan. What’s shown is based on EWG’s review of 65 industry documents and government databases on approved uses for this persistent, ubiquitous pesticide.

HOW TO AVOID TRICLOSAN

Forget antibacterial soap.

The U.S. Medical Directors says not to use them at all.

Watch for triclosan (and triclocarban) in personal care products.

Read ingredient labels or use Skin Deep to find products free of triclosan and triclocarban (its chemical cousin).

Avoid "antibacterial" products.

Triclosan used in everyday products like toothbrushes, toys, and cutting boards that may be labeled "antimicrobial," or make claims such as "ice-cleaning" or "keeps your shower longer.

Triclosan may be in these products:

- Soaps and dishwashing liquid
- Hand sanitizers
- Personal care products
- Cleaning supplies
- Some women’s cosmetics
- Men’s deodorants
- Lotion
- Sunscreen
- Skin care
- Cleaning supplies
- Antiperspirant
- Feminine hygiene products
- Mattress and pillow covers
- Lining of bedsheets
- Kitchen dish terry towels
- Clothing and fabrics
- Toys
- Kitchen and plastic food containers
- Shoes
- Floor coverings and carpet
- Mattresses