

HOUSEHOLD FURNISHINGS GUIDE

HOME FURNISHINGS SAFETY

Some of chemicals found in the foam, textiles and other components of home furnishings are harmful to people and even pets.

These chemicals can pollute indoor air, accumulate in dust and make their way into people's bodies.



WHAT TO AVOID

FLAME RETARDANTS

Since 1976, flame retardant chemicals have been added to home furnishings containing polyurethane foam. These chemicals persist in the environment, contaminate people's bodies and can cause neurocognitive, reproductive and immune system damage. Modern fire science shows no added safety benefit from flame retardants.



STAIN AND WATER REPELLENTS

Fluorinated compounds are added to home furnishing textiles as stain or water repellents. They are extremely persistent in the environment and migrate out of products into air, dust and people's bodies. Health impacts include kidney and testicular cancer.

ANTIMICROBIALS

There is little evidence antimicrobials added to textiles reduce the spread of infections. In contrast, there is evidence these chemicals can cause endocrine problems and reproductive changes.





SUPPORT A MINNESOTA BAN ON FLAME RETARDANTS

Flame retardants in furniture and children's products are ineffective in stopping fires and are no longer required by regulators. Minnesota previously banned four flame retardants and this bill would ban additional chemicals that put children and firefighter's health at risk.

REDUCING CHEMICAL EXPOSURE

READ TAGS WHEN SHOPPING

Buy flame retardant free

- Upholstered Furniture- look for TB117-2013 tag with "contains NO added flame retardant chemicals" checked
- Other foam products such as pillows, mattress toppers - look for TB117-2013 tag. Contact manufacturer to verify if flame retardant free.

Avoid products labeled as antimicrobial, water or stain resistant

REDUCE DUST AND WASH HANDS

Many chemicals accumulate in dust. Reduce exposure by using a vacuum cleaner with a HEPA filter, wet dusting and washing hands frequently. Use rubber gloves when cleaning.

