Butyl Benzyl Phthalate (BBP)

Why am I being warned about potential exposure to BBP?

- BBP is on the Proposition 65 list because it can cause birth defects or other reproductive harm.
- Exposure to BBP during pregnancy may affect the development of the child.
- Proposition 65 requires businesses to determine if they must provide a warning about significant exposure to listed chemicals.

What is BBP?

- BBP is an oily liquid that belongs to a family of chemicals called phthalates, which are added to some plastics to make them flexible.
- BBP is used in various consumer products, including:
  - Some vinyl flooring, sealants, and paints.
  - Some handbags, belts, footwear and other artificial leather items that are made with polyvinyl chloride (commonly referred to as vinyl).
- California law prohibits the manufacture, sale, or distribution of children’s toys and child care articles containing BBP at levels greater than 0.1%. Federal law has a similar prohibition.

How does exposure to BBP occur?

- BBP can be gradually released from consumer products, and is found at low levels in indoor environments such as homes, schools, day care centers, and offices.
- During pregnancy, BBP can pass from mother to baby.
How can I reduce my exposure to BBP?

Avoid plastics known as polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or vinyl (with recycle code 3).

Minimize exposure to dust, which can contain BBP:
- Wash your hands and your child’s hands frequently, especially before preparing food, and before eating.
- Clean floors regularly, using a wet mop or a vacuum cleaner with a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter, if possible.
- Wipe up dust regularly, using a damp cloth.

For more information:

Scientific Information on BBP
- US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
  National Toxicology Program (NTP)
  - NTP-CERHR Monograph on the Potential Human Reproductive and Developmental Effects of Butyl Benzyl Phthalate (BBP)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
  - “Benzylbutyl Phthalate” in Biomonitoring Summary. Phthalates Overview
    https://www.cdc.gov/biomonitoring/BzBP_BiomonitoringSummary.html

Proposition 65
- California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)
  Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)
  - Proposition 65: Background
    https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/faq
  - Proposition 65: The List of Chemicals
    https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/chemicals
  - Proposition 65: Fact Sheets
    https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/fact-sheets