



Furniture Products

Why am I being warned about potential exposure to chemicals from furniture products?



- Some furniture products may expose you to chemicals that are on the [Proposition 65](#) list. These chemicals can cause cancer and/or birth defects or other reproductive harm.
- Proposition 65 requires businesses to determine if they must provide a warning about significant exposure to [listed chemicals](#).

Some chemicals on the Proposition 65 list can be present on furniture product surfaces and/or be released into the air, and accumulate in dust.



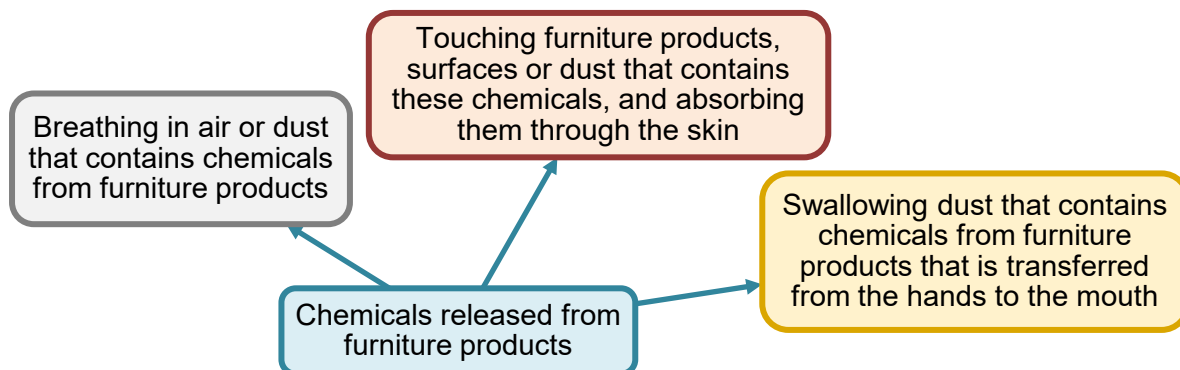
FURNITURE PRODUCTS

- Not all furniture products are made with chemicals on the Proposition 65 list.
- Some furniture products made with Proposition 65-listed chemicals may not carry a Proposition 65 warning because they may not cause exposures high enough to require one.
- Furniture products that have Proposition 65 warnings may expose you to higher levels of listed chemicals than those without warnings.

Furniture products may be made with Proposition 65-listed chemicals, including:

- [Flame retardants](#) and related chemicals added to some polyurethane foams, textiles used in upholstered furniture, mattresses and certain children's products before 2020 when [California banned](#) such use. Flame retardants and related chemicals may also be added to plastics. These include:
 - ▶ [Antimony trioxide](#), [chlorinated tris](#) (also known as TDCPP or TDCIPP), [tetrabromobisphenol A](#) (TBBPA), [tris\(2-chloroethyl\) phosphate](#) (TCEP), and [pentabromodiphenyl ether](#) (PentaBDE) mixture [DE-71 (technical grade)].
- [Formaldehyde](#), released from some [composite wood](#) (for example, particleboard and plywood) and coatings (for example, paints and lacquers).
- [Phthalates](#), a group of chemicals added to many plastics to make them flexible. Phthalates may be used in plastic furniture and vinyl textiles on cushions and other upholstery.
- [PFOA](#) (perfluorooctanoic acid) and [PFOS](#) (perfluorooctane sulfonate), used in some older upholstered furniture products to make them stain-resistant.

How does exposure to Proposition 65-listed chemicals from furniture products occur?



- During pregnancy, some Proposition 65-listed chemicals list from furniture products can pass from mother to baby.

How can I reduce my exposure to Proposition 65-listed chemicals from furniture products?

When choosing furniture products, look for items:

- ✓ Made with materials that are not treated with flame retardants. Note that polyurethane foam is especially likely to contain flame retardants.
- ✓ Made with solid wood, stainless steel, or formaldehyde-free composite wood.
- ✓ That do not have polyvinyl chloride (PVC) materials, which may contain phthalates.

Certain labels on furniture products can help you minimize your exposure to flame retardants and formaldehyde:

- ✓ For upholstered products:
 - ▶ Look for the [TB 117-2013](#) label required by California law. If the label says "contain[s] NO added flame retardant chemicals," the product does not contain significant levels of flame retardants.
 - ▶ If you do not see a TB 117-2013 label, ask if flame retardants have been added to the product.
 - ▶ Also look for the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission label that states "Complies with U.S. CPSC requirements for upholstered furniture flammability." This indicates compliance with California's existing TB117-2013 flammability requirements.
- ✓ Look for furniture products with low formaldehyde gas emission labels with the following language:
 - ▶ [TSCA Title VI Compliant](#) and [California Air Resources Board \(CARB\) Phase 2 Compliant](#).
 - ▶ No-added formaldehyde (NAF).
 - ▶ Ultra-low-emitting formaldehyde (ULEF).

Other ways to protect yourself:

- ✓ Air out new furniture products made from composite wood that may release formaldehyde, where possible. At first, leave them in a well-ventilated area to allow any formaldehyde to dissipate.
- ✓ Maintain low humidity and temperatures indoors. More formaldehyde is released in hot and damp environments.
- ✓ Replace or reupholster furniture products that have exposed or crumbling foam.
- ✓ Minimize your exposure to dust, which can contain Proposition 65-listed chemicals.
 - ▶ Wash your hands and your child's hands frequently, especially before preparing food and before eating.
 - ▶ Clean your floors regularly, using a wet mop or a vacuum cleaner with a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter, if possible.
 - ▶ Dust regularly, using a damp cloth.

For more information:**General Fact Sheets and Resources**

- California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)
California Air Resources Board (CARB)
 - ▶ Formaldehyde
<http://www.arb.ca.gov/research/indoor/formaldehyde.htm>
 - ▶ Composite Wood Products
http://www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/compwood/consumer_faq.pdf
- Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)
 - ▶ Effective July 1, 2017: Children's Foam-Padded Sleeping Products with TDCPP or TCEP as a Priority Product
<https://dtsc.ca.gov/scp/childrens-foam-padded-sleeping-products-with-tdcpp-or-tcep/>
 - ▶ Effective April 1, 2022: Treatments Containing Perfluoroalkyl or Polyfluoroalkyl Substances for Use on Converted Textiles or Leathers
<https://dtsc.ca.gov/scp/treatments-with-pfass/>
- California Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA)
 - ▶ Upholstered Furniture; Flame Retardant Chemicals. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
https://bhgs.dca.ca.gov/forms_pubs/19094_faq_0619.pdf
 - ▶ Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). Assembly Bill 2998 (Bloom) – Consumer Products: Flame Retardant Materials
https://bhgs.dca.ca.gov/forms_pubs/ab2998_faq.pdf
- US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA)
 - ▶ Formaldehyde
<https://www.epa.gov/formaldehyde>
 - ▶ Formaldehyde Emission Standards for Composite Wood Products
<https://www.epa.gov/formaldehyde/formaldehyde-emission-standards-composite-wood-products>

- National Institutes of Health (NIH)
 - ▶ Formaldehyde and Cancer Risk
<https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/causes-prevention/risk/substances/formaldehyde/formaldehyde-fact-sheet>

Scientific Information on Chemicals in Furniture Products

- California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)
 - ▶ Evidence on the Carcinogenicity of Tris(1,3,-Dichloro-2-Propyl) Phosphate [Chlorinated Tris]
<http://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/proposition-65/chemicals/tdcpp070811.pdf>
 - ▶ Final Report on the Identification of Formaldehyde as a Toxic Air Contaminant
<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/classic/toxics/id/summary/formald.pdf>
- Biomonitoring California
 - ▶ Brominated and Chlorinated Flame Retardants
<https://biomonitoring.ca.gov/chemicals/brominated-and-chlorinated-flame-retardants>
- World Health Organization (WHO)
International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)
 - ▶ IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans, vol. 100 F (2012). "Formaldehyde" in Chemical Agents and Related Occupations, pages 401-435.
<https://publications.iarc.fr/123>

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>