



Children's Foam Padded Sleeping Products Containing Tris(1,3-dichloro-2-propyl) phosphate (TDCPP)

Priority Product description: TDCPP is one of the most commonly used flame retardants found in sleeping products that are widely used by infants and toddlers in places such as daycare centers.

Example products include:

- Nap mats with polyurethane foam
- Juvenile product pads in soft-sided portable cribs
- Infant travel bed foam
- Portable infant sleeper foam
- Playard foam
- Play pen foam
- Bassinet foam
- Nap cots with foam pads
- Car bed foam pads
- Foam sleep positioners

Why was this Priority Product selected?

TDCPP is a cancer-causing and hormone-disrupting chemical. It was removed from use in children's pajamas in the 1970s due to health concerns, but is still found in other products. This chemical can escape into the air and bind to dust, making babies especially vulnerable because they sleep for long hours on these mats where they breathe and ingest the surrounding dust. The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has selected children's foam padded sleeping products because of TDCPP's adverse impacts on public health and potential exposure to children who use them. TDCPP accumulates in the environment and has been found in California water bodies and sediments.

Who is at risk?

Children who use TDCPP-containing sleeping products, daycare workers, fish, and wildlife.

What are the hazards of TDCPP?

- Known to the State of California to cause cancer
- Can cause other chronic health effects such as endocrine disruption and dermatitis
- Accumulates in the human body
- Reproductive toxin that may impact fertility by influencing hormone levels and semen quality
- Documented to exhibit genotoxicity and developmental toxicity

Are there safer alternatives to TDCPP in children's foam padded sleeping products?

Products that are not usually treated with flame retardants include those that are made from polyester fiberfill, cotton, and wool.

How do I reduce my exposure?

- Consider sleeping products that use cotton, polyester, or wool instead of polyurethane foam.
- Look for products that state that they do not contain flame retardants.
- Avoid foam mats that contain this flame retardant.
- Children and teachers should wash their hands frequently.
- Nap areas should be mopped or vacuumed often, preferably using a high-efficiency particulate absorption (HEPA) device.
- Contact manufacturers or retailers to inquire as to whether flame retardants were added to their products.