

Greenlist Bulletin - Correction

From the Toxics Use Reduction Institute
at the University of Massachusetts Lowell

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In This Issue


Chemical Exposures of Women
Workers in the Plastics Industry with
Particular Reference to Breast
Cancer and Reproductive Hazards

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Chemical Exposures of Women Workers in the Plastics Industry with Particular Reference to Breast Cancer and Reproductive Hazards --- LINKS UPDATED

[Source: *New Solutions - A Journal of Environmental and Occupational Health Policy*, 2012](#)

Authors: Robert DeMatteo, Margaret M. Keith, James T. Brophy, Anne Wordsworth, Andrew E. Watterson, Matthias Beck, Anne Rochon Ford, Michael Gilbertson, Jyoti Pharityal, Magali Rootham, Dayna Nadine Scott

Despite concern about the harmful effects of substances contained in various plastic consumer products, little attention has focused on the more heavily exposed women working in the plastics industry. Through a review of the toxicology, industrial hygiene, and epidemiology literatures in conjunction with qualitative research, this article explores occupational exposures in producing plastics and health risks to workers, particularly women, who make up a large part of the workforce. The review demonstrates that workers are exposed to chemicals that have been identified as mammary carcinogens and endocrine disrupting chemicals, and that the work environment is heavily contaminated with dust and fumes. Consequently, plastics workers have a body burden that far exceeds that found in the general public. The nature of these exposures in the plastics industry places women at disproportionate risk, underlining the importance of gender. Measures for eliminating these exposures and the need for regulatory action are discussed.

[Read more...](#)

Read a press release on this research from the Canadian Women's Health Network [here.](#)

Please send a message to mary@turi.org if you would like more information on any of these resources. Also, please tell us what topics you are particularly interested in monitoring, and who else should see Greenlist. An online search of the TURI Library catalog can be done at <http://library.turi.org> for greater topic coverage.

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