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College students exposed to toxic flame retardants in dust from dormitory furnishings

[Source: Silent Spring Institute, April 2017](#)

Parents getting ready to send their kids off to college next fall might want to take note. A new study ... shows that students living in college dormitories are exposed to high levels of toxic flame retardants in dust. In the analysis, led by Silent Spring Institute, scientists measured dozens of flame retardants in dorm dust samples, including carcinogens, hormone disruptors, and chemicals that affect brain function. The results also included some of the highest levels ever reported.

"College students spend a lot of time in their dorms -- it's their home away from home. So the fact that they're being exposed to hazardous chemicals where they sleep, study, and hangout raises important health concerns," says lead author Robin Dodson, an environmental exposure scientist at Silent Spring. Earlier research by Dodson and others found flame retardants are widespread in house dust. This is the first study of its kind to look at exposure to a wide range of flame retardants in dust on college campuses.

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See original study in *Environmental Science & Technology*, "[Flame Retardant Chemicals in College Dormitories: Flammability Standards Influence Dust Concentrations](#)".

Also see from *Bloomberg BNA - Chemical*

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Press Release: At UN meeting, Canada and Chile stand alone trying to legitimize e-waste dumping and promote recycling of toxic chemical into children's products

[Source: IPEN, April 25, 2017](#)

[Author: Bjorn Beeler](#)

Geneva: Today, at the Stockholm Convention 8th Conference of the Parties, Chile and Canada surprised delegates by proposing to allow recycling materials containing a toxic flame retardant widely found in electronic waste (e-waste). The proposal violates the Stockholm Convention which explicitly prohibits recycling and reuse of substances on its list.

DecaBDE is used in the plastic casings of electronic products and if it is not removed, it is carried into new products when the plastic is recycled. Toxicity studies indicate potential adverse developmental, neurotoxic, and reproductive effects, and DecaBDE or its degradation products may also act as endocrine disruptors.

[Read more...](#)

See IPEN/Arnika Association April 2017 report, ["POPS Recycling Contaminates Children's Toys With Toxic Flame Retardants"](#).

Also see from *Sustainable Brands*, ["Toxic Chemicals in Recycled Plastic Electronics Threaten Circular Economy"](#).

Governor Cuomo Announces New Regulations to Require Disclosure of Chemicals in Household Cleaning Products

[Source: New York State, April 25, 2017](#)

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced the launch of a new initiative to require all manufacturers of household cleaning products sold in New York to disclose chemical ingredients on their websites. New York is the first state in the nation to require manufacturers to disclose ingredients in household cleaning products, which may contain chemicals with negative health impacts for humans and the environment. Additionally, the state Department of Environmental Conservation has proposed new restrictions that would reduce the amount of perchloroethylene, a chemical that is a likely human carcinogen and is widely used in dry-cleaning, and other potentially dangerous dry cleaning solvents that are released into the environment. The announcements coincide with Earth Week, a weeklong celebration of New York's commitment and accomplishments to protect our environment.

"These new regulations will help protect New Yorkers and give them the peace of mind of knowing what's in their homes and in their communities," Governor Cuomo said. "These actions continue this state's legacy of environmental stewardship and will help build a cleaner, greener New York for all."

The Household Cleaning Product Information Disclosure Program, overseen by DEC, was announced during the Governor's 2017 State of the State address. Under the program, manufacturers must identify all of the ingredients and impurities in their products, including those that are chemicals of concern, as well as their content by weight in ranges.

[Read more...](#)

See more information on the New York State [Household Cleansing Product Ingredient Disclosure Program](#).

CVS Health Takes Major Step to Address Chemicals of Consumer Concern

[Source: CVS Health, April 19, 2017](#)

[Author: Stephanie Cunha](#)

Pharmacy chain CVS this week announced plans to remove three chemical groups from hundreds of its store-brand products.

The company said that it would phase out the use of parabens, phthalates and select forms of formaldehyde from nearly 600 beauty and personal care products under the CVS Health, Beauty 360, Essence of Beauty and Blade brand names.

Products that include those substances will no longer be shipped to CVS warehouses as of the end of 2019, company officials said.

[Read more...](#)

See the full list of restricted chemicals by product category [here](#).

A perspective approach to sustainable routes for non-isocyanate polyurethanes

[Source: *European Polymer Journal*, February 2017](#)

[Authors: Adrien Cornille, Remi Auvergne, Oleg Figovsky, Bernard Boutevin, Sylvain Caillol](#)

Sustainable routes for the synthesis of polyurethanes with industrial applications are discussed in this article. Polyurethane is currently one of the most commonly used polymers worldwide for various applications such as rigid and flexible foams, coatings, elastomers, adhesives and sealants. However, isocyanate precursors are very harmful at each stage of the life cycle of the polymers. Hence, new synthesis routes for isocyanate-free polyurethanes are reported in literature, but most of them suffer from significant lacks that prevent any industrial application. This feature article focuses on the new challenges and new opportunities of these routes. A first part is dedicated to the market, the manufacture and the hazards of polyurethanes. In a second part, this article deals with the synthesis routes leading to non-isocyanate polyurethane. Hence, the advantages and limits of these routes are reported and discussed. Finally the outlooks for a future and industrial use of non-isocyanate polyurethane in industry are examined.

[Read more...](#)

Also see from *ACS Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering*, "[Development of High Performance Polyurethane Elastomers Using Vanillin-Based Green Polyol Chain Extender Originating from Lignocellulosic Biomass](#)".

How to consider a read-across approach for multi-constituent and UVCB substances

[Source: European Chemicals Agency, March 7, 2017](#)

Helsinki, 7 March 2017 -- A new document on using read-across for multi-constituent and UVCB (unknown or variable composition, complex reaction products or biological materials) substances describes key issues for assessing and addressing the complexity of read-across approaches for these substances. Furthermore, it contains example model cases to illustrate this complexity.

[Read more...](#)

Access the framework document [here](#).

International community meets to protect human health and the environment from toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes

[Source: Global Environment Facility, April 24, 2017](#)

Over 1,600 representatives from more than 180 countries as well as observers including from civil society groups and the chemical and waste industries are gathering in Geneva to discuss measures to promote the sound management of chemicals and wastes.

The two week-long Triple Conferences of the Parties (COPs) to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions aims to strengthen the three international treaties contributing to the global management of hazardous chemicals and waste.

"Chemicals constitute the building blocks of modern life. But without ensuring the environmentally sound management of chemicals and the phase-out of especially hazardous substances, we will continue to see more lives lost to poisoning, contamination and pollution. What we need to address this crisis is stronger regulatory action taken at national and international levels. That is why this meeting of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions is so critical. Only through cooperation and collaboration can we hope to create a detoxified future for everyone," said Ibrahim Thiaw, UN Environment Deputy Executive Director.

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All known substances of very high concern being tackled

[Source: European Chemicals Agency, April 25, 2017](#)

With three years to go before the target of having all relevant currently known substances of very high concern on the Candidate List, progress is on track. All substances for which there is sufficient information on the hazard properties have already been addressed. The focus now is on getting more data on other substances of potential concern, to enable the Agency and the Member States to make a judgement about the hazards and risks they present.

Helsinki, 25 April 2017 -- The third report on implementing "The Roadmap for SVHC identification and REACH Risk management measures from now to 2020" describes the achievements and progress made from its adoption in 2013 to the end of 2016.

Each year since 2013, ECHA has screened the full REACH/CLP substance database to identify substances of concern. This resulted in around 900 substances being put forward for further manual screening by the Member States, of which more than 600 have now been screened.

Identifying substances of potential concern is becoming more and more difficult because of the lack of information on their hazards and on how they are used. In total, there are currently 540 substances, where more information is being requested.

[Read more...](#)

See ECHA Annual Report, "[Progressing together to identify substances of concern](#)".

Shades of Green: Scientists and engineers help turn ocean plastic into new products

[Source: New Materials Institute - University of Georgia, March 2, 2017](#)

[Author: Terry Hastings](#)

Athens, Ga. -- Two years ago, socially conscious entrepreneurs Rob Ianelli and Ryan Schoenike founded their company, Norton Point, to manufacture sunglasses made from the huge amounts of plastic cleaned up from ocean coastlines.

Their goal was to be a part of the solution to one of the planet's greatest challenges: the 8 million tons of plastic entering Earth's oceans each year. Moreover, they wanted to reinvest their profits in research, education and development efforts that help reduce the impact of ocean plastic.

Now, engineers and polymer scientists with the University of Georgia's New Materials Institute are helping Norton Point, which is based in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, with testing of its "ocean plastics" products and finding new product applications.

[Read more...](#)

Anticorrosion Coating Industry Transitioning to Sustainable Development

[Source: Paint & Coatings Industry, March 9, 2017](#)

[Author: Dr. Atul Tiwari](#)

Although enormous efforts have been made to find sustainable solutions for making commercially successful products, the quest for environment-friendly coatings is still in its infancy. The new health and safety regulations imposed on chemicals and coating manufacturing will certainly motivate industry in the direction of sustainable development. Although the slow recovery of the worldwide economy has severely affected the ongoing efforts to sustainable research and development, the pace of innovation and invention has not been affected.

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