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UMass Amherst researchers find anti-bacterial chemical accumulates in toothbrushes

Source: [The Boston Globe, October 25, 2017](#)

Author: Alyssa Meyers

A chemical contained in some brands of toothpaste accumulates in toothbrushes over time and is then released into a person's mouth when they switch to a different type of toothpaste, according to researchers at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

A team of environmental chemists reported in the journal "*Environmental Science and Technology*" that triclosan 6 -- an anti-bacterial agent that has been banned from other products -- builds up in the bristles and other soft parts of toothbrushes, the university said in a statement.

Triclosan is only found in antibacterial toothpastes, the university said. When users switch to a different toothpaste brand that does not contain triclosan, it is released into the user's mouth with every brush.

[Read more...](#)

See original article in *Environmental Science & Technology*, "[Nylon Bristles and Elastomers Retain Centigram Levels of Triclosan and Other Chemicals from Toothpastes: Accumulation and Uncontrolled Release](#)".

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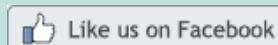
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retardants

[Source: Chemical Watch, October 26, 2017](#)

Author: Julie A. Miller

San Francisco has banned the sale of upholstered furniture and children's products "made with or containing an added flame retardant chemical".

The 17 October vote by the California city's Board of Supervisors makes it the first municipality in the US to enact such a ban. The law goes into effect in January 2019, giving retailers a year to move their inventory.

The state of Rhode Island banned the sale of bedding and furniture treated with organohalogen flame retardants in October. In August, the Maine legislature gave final approval to a measure banning the use of all chemical flame retardants in upholstered furniture.

[Read more...](#)

Proposal to restrict hazardous substances in tattoo inks and permanent make-up

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

Helsinki, 25 October 2017 -- Due to the growing popularity of tattoos and no harmonised control in the EU on tattoo and permanent make-up inks, ECHA was asked by the European Commission to assess the chemical-related risks associated with the inks, the need for Union-wide action, and the relevant socio-economic impacts. ECHA asked Member States if they wanted to be involved in developing the proposal and Denmark, Italy and Norway became co-responsible. In addition, Germany contributed significantly to the proposal. As a conclusion to this assessment, the dossier submitters have made the proposal for a restriction.

The aim of the proposal is not to ban tattoo inks or tattooing. Instead, the aim is to regulate specific hazardous substances present in tattoo inks so that they are safe for people.

[Read more...](#)

Also see from ECHA, ["Member States to evaluate 107 substances in 2018-2020"](#).

JRC publishes NANoREG Toolbox for the Safety Assessment of Nanomaterials

[Source: Bergeson & Campbell PC, October 5, 2017](#)

Authors: Lynn L. Bergeson and Carla N. Hutton

The European Commission (EC) Joint Research Center (JRC) has published the NANoREG Toolbox for the Safety Assessment of Nanomaterials. As reported in our May 8, 2017, blog item, JRC previously published a Science for Policy report entitled NANoREG framework for the safety assessment of nanomaterials. The report was developed within the NANoREG project, "A common European approach to the regulatory testing of nanomaterials." The NANoREG framework represents the project's proposal for a common understanding in the field of environmental health and safety assessment of nanomaterials under the current European regulatory framework, with focus on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) regulation. The Toolbox supports the implementation of the framework by providing an overview of available tools (test methods, datasets, models, guidance documents, and decision trees) useful to regulators and other stakeholders in the European REACH context.

[Read more...](#)

See the JRC Science for Policy Report, "[NANoREG framework for the safety assessment of nanomaterials](#)" and access the "[NANoREG Toolbox for the Safety Assessment of Nanomaterials](#)".

Also see from Bergeson & Campbell PC, "[EPA Promulgates Final SNUR for Bimodal Mixture Consisting of MWCNTs and Other Classes of CNTs](#)".

The Home Depot announces new strategy to remove toxic chemicals in building products

[Source: Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families, October 25, 2017](#)

Author: CJ Frogozo

Today, The Home Depot announced a new Chemical Strategy to remove harmful chemicals in building products such as paints, carpet, and flooring. The policy addresses dangerous chemicals like flame retardants, phthalates, and nonylphenol ethoxylates. Hazardous chemicals such as these have been linked to cancer, reproductive harm, asthma, and learning and developmental disabilities.

Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families Mind the Store Campaign Director Mike Schade issued the following statement in response:

"We congratulate The Home Depot for developing this important new Chemical Strategy to drive harmful chemicals out of products like paint, wall-to-wall carpet, and flooring. This is great news and builds on Home Depot's successful policy to eliminate phthalates in flooring. We are pleased to see that The Home Depot is eliminating a more significant use of harmful chemicals such as nonylphenol ethoxylates and other alkylphenol ethoxylates in paint. While we're pleased that The Home Depot is investigating alternatives to methylene chloride-based paint strippers, they should take the next step and commit to a full phase-out of toxic chemicals in paint strippers. These chemicals pose unacceptable risks to their customers."

[Read more...](#)

See [Chemical Strategy from Home Depot](#).

Also see from the Healthy Building Network, "[Details on the new Home Depot Chemical Strategy](#)".

Costco develops new safer chemicals policy

[Source: Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families, October 26, 2017](#)

Authors: Laurie Valeriano and Mike Schade

We have some exciting news on Costco! We're pleased to report that Costco has announced that it is committing to reducing harmful chemicals in the products it sells by adopting a new Chemicals Management Policy! Fewer hazardous chemicals on Costco's shelves mean fewer hazardous chemicals in our homes, our bodies, and our environment.

Costco made its announcement on its website stating:

"Costco's Chemical Management Policy goes beyond the boundaries of regulatory compliance in an effort to reduce potential chemical harm to humans and to the environment from the product manufacturing process

and from consumer use and disposal."

The policy outlines the steps the company is taking with suppliers including:

- 1) Identifying chemicals of concern (utilizing comprehensive testing programs);
- 2) Removing or applying the process of informed substitution for any identified chemicals of concern;
- 3) Identifying ways suppliers can change their manufacturing processes to reduce hazardous chemical use; and
- 4) Reviewing qualified third-party green certifications.

[Read more...](#)

See information about their [Smart Screening Program](#) and [their partnership with the Berkeley Center for Green Chemistry](#).

Why businesses and state governments aren't waiting for federal action on chemicals transparency

Source: [Environmental Defense Fund + Business, October 26, 2017](#)

Author: Alissa Sasso

As a Trump Administration appointee tries to dismantle EPA's credibility as a guardian of public health and the environment, other actors have been stepping up. We recently examined retailers leading the way on removing chemicals of concern from the marketplace -- but there has also been significant activity from state governments and companies to increase transparency about the chemicals we are exposed to every day and to empower consumers to make informed decisions about their product purchases.

...

Why did industry come to the table on what has historically been a combative issue? Consumer demand for transparency has grown greatly, and several major retailers and product manufacturers have gained a competitive advantage by enhancing their own ingredient disclosure.

[Read more...](#)

See from *The Boston Globe*, ["EPA chemical review would exclude millions of tons of toxins"](#).

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