

This is the weekly bulletin of the TURI Library at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Greenlist Bulletin provides previews of recent publications and websites relevant to reducing the use of toxic chemicals by industries, businesses, communities, individuals and government. You are welcome to send a message to mary@turi.org if you would like more information on any of the articles listed here, or if this email is not displaying properly.

Nap mats at some Seattle child-care centers contain potentially harmful chemicals

Source: [The Seattle Times, April 24, 2018](#)

Author: Sandi Doughton

Afternoon naps are a time-honored tradition in many child-care centers, as toddlers snuggle up on soft mats to drowse, daydream or fidget.

The possibility that those mats could be exposing kids to toxic chemicals might come as a surprise to most parents and day-care workers. But a new analysis found potentially harmful flame retardants in the majority of mats at some day cares across Seattle.

The study was a small pilot, sampling only seven child-care centers in neighborhoods from the University District and Wallingford, to South Seattle and the Central District. Nap mats in all but one of the centers contained the flame-retardant chemicals.

Estimated exposures to children were generally below existing safety thresholds, though exposures to a few chemicals were higher. The researchers found that replacing older mats with new, greener versions lowered exposures dramatically by reducing chemicals in dust.

[Read more...](#)

See study from *Environmental Pollution*, "[Exposure to brominated and organophosphate ester flame retardants in U.S. childcare](#)"

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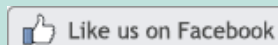
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Upcoming webinar: Safer Solutions for Methylene Chloride

**Tuesday, June 5, 2018
12:00pm-1:00pm**

TURI has been working with the U.S. EPA, the University of Massachusetts Lowell, paint stripper product manufacturers, and furniture refinishers to identify and evaluate solvent blends with equal or better paint stripping performance, comparable ingredient costs, and a safer environmental, health, and safety profile as compared to methylene chloride. This webinar will

[environments: Effect of removal of flame-retarded nap mats on indoor levels](#)".

Also see from *Chemical Watch*, "[Phthalates, BPA found in major European toy checks](#)".

TURI's Note: See information from a former TURI Grantee's project, "[Safe, Healthy, Affordable, Responsible Environments \(SHARE\) For Early Childhood Education in Greater Boston](#)". Specifically, the grantee developed a "[Childcare Guide to Safer Alternatives](#)".

describe why methylene chloride is a higher hazard substance as designated by TURA and findings from the research into safer formulations.
Register [here](#).

EU states agree nanomaterial changes to REACH annexes

Source: [Chemical Watch](#), April 26, 2018

Author: Andrew Turley

Nanomaterial-specific information requirements would become part of the legal text for REACH for the first time under proposed changes just agreed by EU member states.

At a meeting of the REACH Committee today, states voted in favour of amending several REACH annexes to clarify registration requirements with regard to the controversial materials.

The aim of the changes, they say, is to address the current "knowledge gap" relating to:

- the substances registered under REACH that are placed on the market as nanomaterials; and
- the corresponding quantities, broken down in terms of the specific nanoforms.

They will provide information on: basic characteristics; uses; safe handling techniques; potential risks to human health and the environment; and risk control methods.

[Read more...](#)

TURI's Note: See our fact sheet on [Engineered Nanomaterials](#).

Hair products for Black women contain mix of hazardous ingredients

Source: [Silent Spring Institute](#), April 2018

A new report published today in the journal *Environmental Research* shows that Black women are potentially exposed to dozens of hazardous chemicals through the hair products they use.

The study..., by scientists at Silent Spring Institute, is the first to measure concentrations of endocrine-disrupting chemicals -- substances that interfere with the body's hormones -- in a variety of hair products marketed at Black women. The findings could help researchers understand why Black women have higher exposures to hazardous chemicals than other groups and how these elevated exposures contribute to health disparities in the U.S. population.

"Chemicals in hair products, and beauty products in general, are mostly untested and largely unregulated," says lead author Jessica Helm, PhD, a scientist at Silent Spring. "This study is a first step toward uncovering what harmful substances are in products frequently used by Black women, so we can better understand what's driving some of the health issues they're facing."

For instance, Black women go through puberty at younger ages, and have higher rates of hormone-mediated problems such as pre-term birth, uterine fibroids and infertility than other groups of women. Incidence rates of breast cancer and endometrial cancer among Black women are also increasing.

[Read more...](#)

See study in *Environmental Research*, "[Measurement of endocrine disrupting and asthma-associated chemicals in hair products used by Black women](#)".

Also see from Women's Voices For The Earth, "[Report Exposes Industry-Funded Cosmetic Ingredient Review \(CIR\) Panel's Failure to Protect the Public and Manufacturers](#)". Here is a [link](#) to the full report.

Crumb Rubber in Playgrounds and Children's Health

[Source: National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, March 20, 2018](#)

Recycled rubber artificial turf and similar products were introduced into athletic fields and playgrounds in the 1990s to make playing surfaces more comfortable. This recycled rubber comes from automobile tires, which are ground into very small rubber pellets, called crumb.

Scientists and doctors have expressed concern about crumb rubber use in play grounds and artificial turf because safety testing of these products has not been conducted, and tires are known to contain heavy metals, cancer-causing chemicals, and other toxic substances. Children can be exposed to the harmful substances in crumb rubber when the pellets touch their skin, when small pieces are accidentally swallowed, and when some of the chemicals are released from the rubber in the form of gas which can be inhaled, or enter the environment through leaching.

In this podcast, learn more about what scientists are doing to understand the health risks of crumb rubber in playgrounds, and what you can do to reduce children's exposure to potentially harmful contaminants.

[Read more...](#)

TURI's Note: Also see our Subject Guide on [Artificial Turf](#).

U.S. EPA chief proposes that agency regulations rely only on publicly available data

[Source: Chemical & Engineering News, April 26, 2018](#)

Author: Cheryl Hogue

A recently proposed rule could significantly restrict the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ability to protect Americans' health and the environment from pollution. Under EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's proposal, the agency would be limited to using publicly available scientific data.

Pruitt's move would affect scientific studies, models, and analyses that are critical for determining regulatory standards -- including information used to estimate the health risks posed by individual chemicals and weigh the costs and benefits of regulations. Such regulations dictate allowable levels of air or drinking water pollution, how pesticides may be used, controls on production of new commercial chemicals, and cleanup requirements for hazardous waste sites.

Pruitt's move is to ensure that critical data underlying environmental regulations "are publicly available in a manner sufficient for independent validation," the proposal says. "Using scientific information that can be independently validated will lead to better outcomes" and strengthen public confidence in EPA's decisions, the proposal adds.

[Read more...](#)

Also see from *Chemical Watch*, "[US EPA proposes controversial science transparency rule](#)" and from *The Pump Handle*, "[Healthcare providers and info on toxic chemicals: Is EPA wiggling away from transparency mandate?](#)".

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