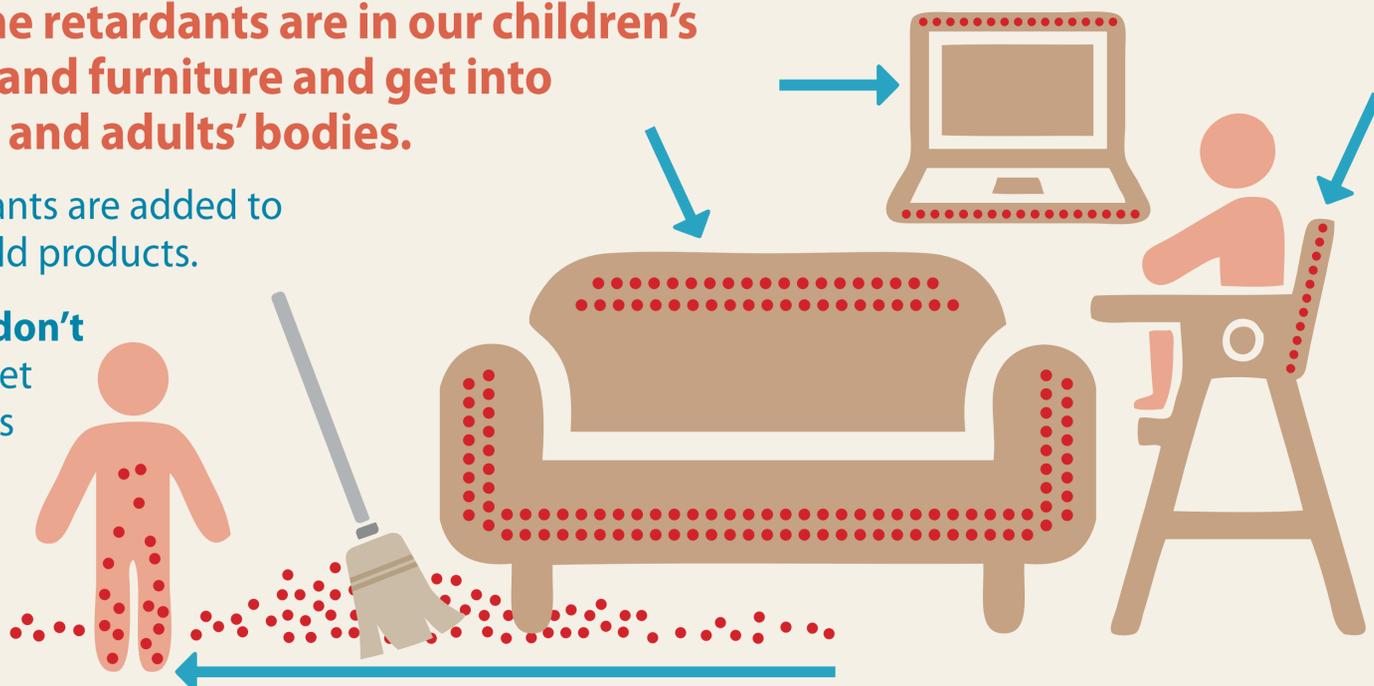


# TOXIC FLAME RETARDANTS

## 1. Toxic flame retardants are in our children's products and furniture and get into children's and adults' bodies.

Toxic flame retardants are added to common household products.

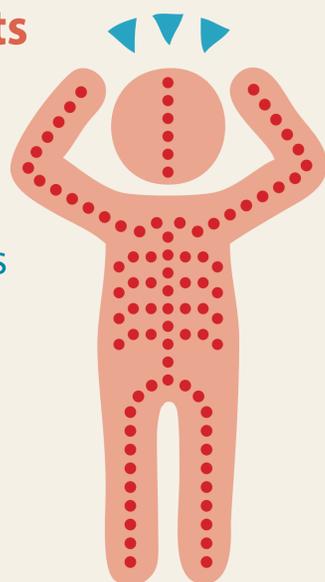
**These chemicals don't stay put** — they get out of the products and into the dust in our homes, and also into our bodies.



## 2. Flame retardants are harmful to our health.

They are linked to cancer, learning disabilities, nervous system damage, infertility, obesity, thyroid problems and more.

Some are highly-persistent and **build up in our bodies** and the food chain.



## 3. Firefighters are exposed in fires and have higher rates of cancer.

In fires, flame retardants burn and **turn into toxic fumes**, exposing firefighters, who have 60–136% more flame retardants in their bodies than the average US adult male.<sup>1</sup>

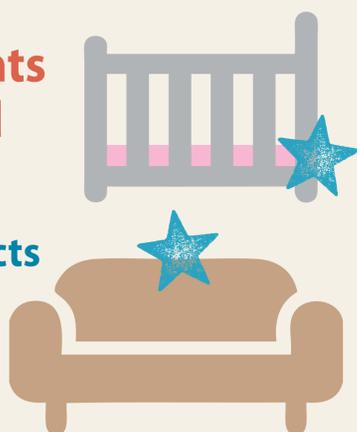


Boston firefighters' cancer rates are 2.5 times higher than other Boston residents. Every three weeks a Boston firefighter is diagnosed with cancer. **Twenty Boston firefighters develop cancer every year.**<sup>2</sup>



## 4. Flame retardants are not needed to stop fires.

Furniture and foam **products can be made to be safe** using less flammable materials.



For more information go to:

[cleanwaterfund.org/features/toxic-flame-retardants](http://cleanwaterfund.org/features/toxic-flame-retardants)



The Alliance for a  
**HEALTHY  
TOMORROW**



<sup>1</sup> Shaw, S.; Berger, M.; Harris, J.; Yun, S.; Wu, Q.; Liao, C.; Blum, A.; Stefani, A.; Kannan, K., Persistent organic pollutants including polychlorinated and polybrominated dibenzo-p-dioxins and dibenzofurans in firefighters from Northern California. Chemosphere 2013, 91, 1386-1394.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Michael Hamrock <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hOvBypsaHog>