



# CLEAN WATER FUND

## GETTING TOXICS OUT

Elizabeth Saunders (she/her/hers)  
Massachusetts Director

KiShayla Fonfield (she/her/hers)  
Environmental Health & Justice Organizer

**TUURI**

**TOXICS USE REDUCTION INSTITUTE**

**UMASS LOWELL**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Overview - toxic chemicals in everyday products
- Cleaning products
- PFAS - “The forever chemicals”
- Toxic Flame Retardants
- What you can do



How many  
chemicals are  
registered for use  
by the EPA?



**86,000+**

Only a small fraction of these chemicals  
have been tested for safety.

**Birth  
defects**

**Parkinson's  
disease**

**Asthma**

**Reproductive  
toxicity**

**Infertility**

**Lupus**

**Learning  
disabilities**

**Alzheimer's  
disease**

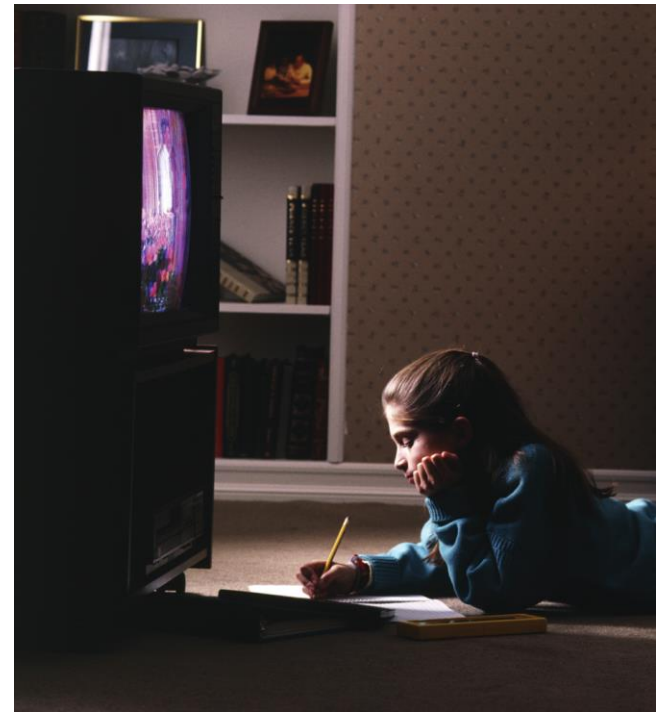
**Cancer**

**Developmental  
delays**

**Autoimmune  
disease**

**Obesity**





# TRUE OR FALSE?

“Tiny amounts of chemicals can’t harm us.”

**FALSE**

Endocrine disruptors:

mimic hormones

can have a big impact, even at low levels.



# WOMEN AND CHILDREN



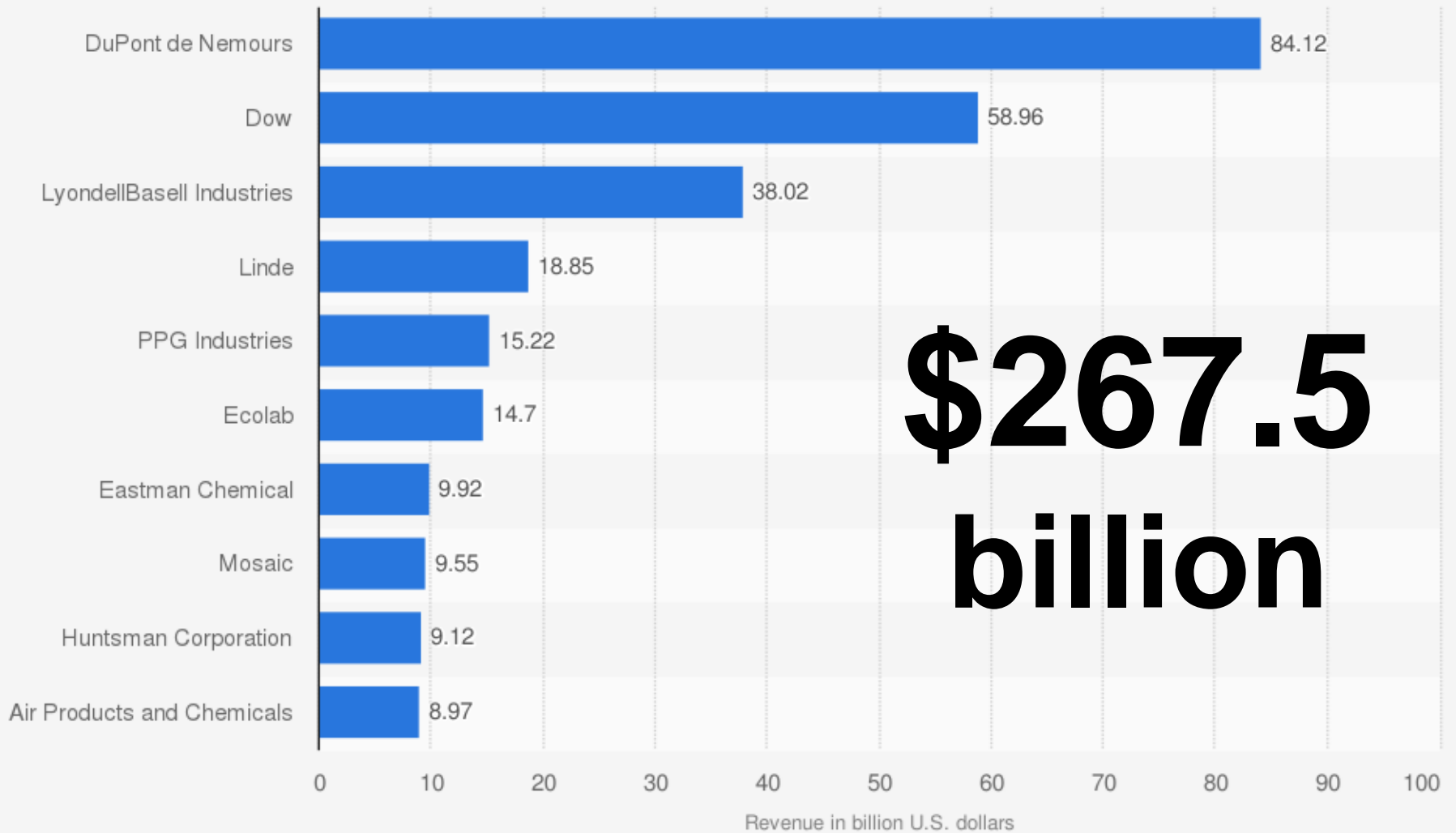
# WORKERS



# LOW INCOME PEOPLE, PEOPLE OF COLOR, IMMIGRANTS

- ◎ Access to safer products
- ◎ Time / money / resources to learn about and choose safer products
- ◎ Communities overburdened with pollution
- ◎ Language barriers

# 2019 ranking of leading United States chemical companies based on revenue (in billion U.S. dollars)\*



## Sources

Thomson Reuters; Various sources (company data)

© Statista 2019

## Additional Information:

United States

Breathe



# CLEANING & DISINFECTING



# **PROBLEMATIC CLEANING CHEMICALS**

**“Quats” (Ammonium  
quaternary compounds)**

**Bleach**

# SAFER DISINFECTING

Look for disinfectants with active ingredients such as:

- **alcohol/ethanol/isopropanol**
- **hydrogen peroxide**
- **lactic acid**
- **citric acid**
- **thymol**



*Source: [www.womensvoices.org](http://www.womensvoices.org)*



Breathe

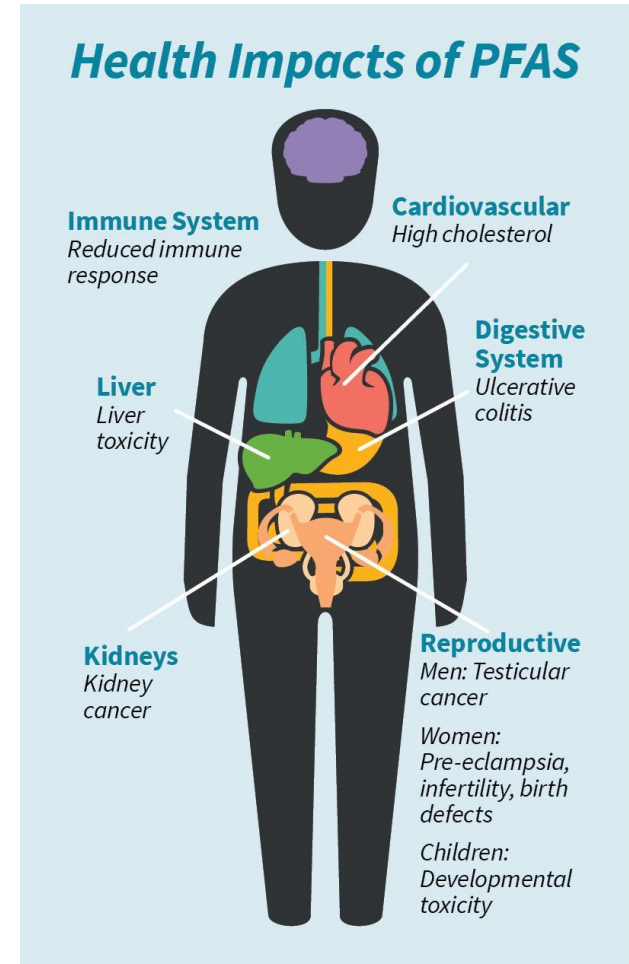




**WHAT ARE PFAS?**

# What are the health effects of PFAS exposure?

- Cancer (Kidney, Liver, Testicular)
- High cholesterol
- Reproductive toxicity
- Developmental toxicity
- Decreased immune response
- Preeclampsia



# FOOD, FOOD PACKAGING AND COMPOSTABLES



# PHASING PFAS OUT OF FOOD PACKAGING



# FABRICS

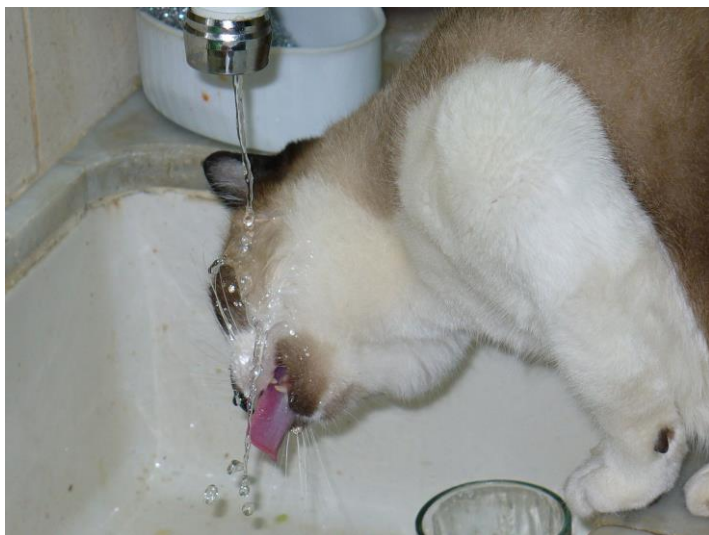


# FIRE FIGHTING FOAM



Good News!

# WATER





# LANDFILLS





Contamination Sites

EPA Detections

# **WATER - SETTING THE STANDARDS**



**8 states have established rules  
about PFAS in water**

**Massachusetts:**

- **New groundwater standard**
- **Proposed drinking water standard**
- **One of the strongest in the country**

# WHAT CAN YOU DO?



**Ask your water supplier about PFAS & your drinking water**

**Avoid Teflon coated cookware - and don't overheat if you do use it**

**Avoid takeout food packaging and/or take food out of packaging quickly**

**Bring your own reusable containers to take home leftovers**

# THE DEVIL WE KNOW

THE CHEMISTRY OF A COVER-UP

OFFICIAL SELECTION  
sundance

OFFICIAL SELECTION  
hotdocs



"A must-see"  
—*Rolling Stone*

"A blood-boiling eco-doc..."  
—*Hollywood Reporter*

"One of the most genuinely scary  
films at Sundance this year..."  
—*New York Times*

"A riveting tale"  
—*Variety*

ATLAS FILMS PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH DIAMOND DOCS A FILM BY STEPHANIE SOECHTIG  
CAST: ERICAN TYLER PRODUCED BY JAMES LEICHE EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS BOB HASSLER AND STEVE MICHAEL WALRATH MICHELLE MALRATH ANDREA VAN BEUREN KRISTIN LAZURE  
WRITTEN BY JOSHUA KLIMAU KRISTIN LAZURE PRODUCED BY CARLY PALMOUR STEPHANIE SOECHTIG EDITOR JILL LATIANO HONERTON  
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MARK MONFIE EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JEREMY SEIFERT PRODUCED BY STEPHANIE SOECHTIG

A man in a dark suit and tie is shown in a close-up, looking slightly to the right with a serious, concerned expression. The background is dark and out of focus, with another person's head visible in the upper left. The overall lighting is dramatic and low-key.

# **DARK WATERS**

OFFICIAL TRAILER

Breathe



# WHAT ARE FLAME RETARDANTS?





# What are the health effects of Flame retardants?

- **Cancer**
- **Nervous system damage**
- **Developmental delays**
- **Hormone disruption**
- **Decreased IQ**
- **Birth defects**
- **Reproductive damage**



**DO WE NEED FLAME  
RETARDANTS TO  
PREVENT HOUSE FIRES?**



**NO**

# CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS



**Play mats**  
**Car seats**  
**Booster seats**  
**High chairs**  
**Walkers**



**Strollers**



**Nursing pillows**  
**Children's toys**



# CAR SEATS

**5 companies now  
make flame retardant  
free car seats:**

Britax

Clek

Maxi-Cosi

Nuna

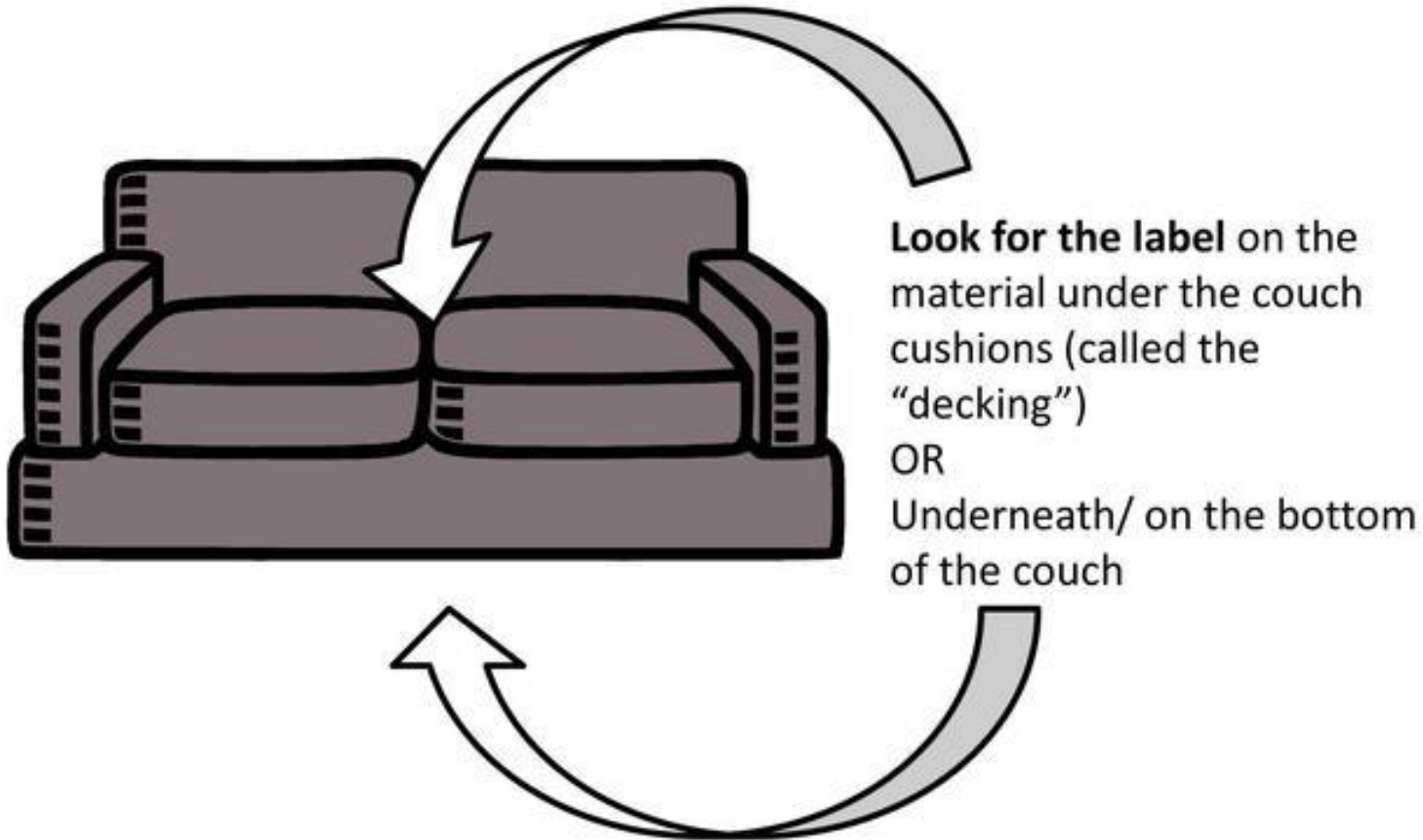
UPPAbaby



# FURNITURE



# TIP: CHECK THE LABEL



# BEST

## NOTICE

THIS ARTICLE MEETS THE FLAMMABILITY REQUIREMENTS OF CALIFORNIA BUREAU OF ELECTRONIC AND APPLIANCE REPAIR, HOME FURNISHINGS AND THERMAL INSULATION TECHNICAL BULLETIN 117-2013. CARE SHOULD BE EXERCISED NEAR OPEN FLAME OR WITH BURNING CIGARETTES.

---

The upholstery materials in this product:  
contain added flame retardant chemicals  
X contain NO added flame retardant chemicals

The State of California has updated the flammability standard and determined the fire safety requirements for this product can be met without adding flame retardant chemicals. The State has identified many flame retardant chemicals as being known to, or strongly suspected of, adversely impacting human health or development.



Furniture made after January 1, 2015 will have the "Technical Bulletin 117-2013" label AND the new flame retardant label

Look for the labels marked "contain NO added flame retardant chemicals"

# MATTRESSES





# ELECTRONICS



# FIREFIGHTERS ON THE FRONT LINES



# WHAT CAN YOU DO?

**Vacuum and mop often to reduce dust**

**Wash hands before eating**

**Before buying new furniture, check the tag to see if it's flame retardant free**

**When buying foam products (nursing pillows, car seats etc.) ask if the products contain flame retardants**

**Avoid memory foam mattresses & those shipped rolled up in a box**





UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL THIS  
TAG BE REMOVED  
EXCEPT BY THE CONSUMER

WHAT IF THE CHEMICALS  
SOLD TO PROTECT US  
COULD ACTUALLY HARM US?

REG. NO. CA-55348 (M)

# TOXIC HOT SEAT

**HBO** DOCUMENTARY FILMS. PRESENTS A SLOVEN CREEK FILMS PRODUCTION **TOXIC HOT SEAT** WRITTEN BY JAMES NEUBERG AND KERRY WALKER  
WRITTEN, PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY JAMES NEUBERG AND KERRY WALKER EDITED BY JEN BRADSHAW COSTUME DESIGNER JEFFREY TAYLOR MAKEUP DESIGNER DANIEL LAMONG  
TOP AND BOTTOM PRODUCED BY NANCY ABRAHAM EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS GREGG K. NELSON

**PREMIERES MONDAY NOV. 25, 9PM **HBO****

Breathe





A+



**Urging major retailers  
to create corporate  
safe chemical policies  
that get toxic  
chemicals out of their  
stores and off of the  
shelves.**

A



A



A-



# SUPPORT US, JOIN US

## Email list:

[CleanWater.salsalabs.org/subscribe](https://CleanWater.salsalabs.org/subscribe)

## Donate:

[CleanWater.org/EarthDay2020](https://CleanWater.org/EarthDay2020)



CLEAN WATER  
FUND

# RESOURCES

Cleanwater.org

Turi.org

Healthytomorrow.org

Mindthestore.org

**Elizabeth:** [esaunders@cleanwater.org](mailto:esaunders@cleanwater.org)



CLEAN WATER  
FUND