



# EWG'S HEALTHY HOME CHECKLIST

Check your house for common toxic chemicals and choose safer alternatives with this simple checklist for less toxic living.

## KITCHEN



- DO YOU COOK WITH NON-STICK COOKWARE?**  
Replace with cast-iron, stainless steel, or glass when possible. Stuck with it? Take care not to overheat it, which releases toxic fumes.
- DO YOU USE PLASTIC FOOD CONTAINERS?**  
We recommend glass over plastic. Never microwave food in plastic containers. For baby, use glass or BPA-free plastic bottles.
- DO YOU FILTER YOUR TAP WATER?**  
Check EWG's online tap water quality database for local contaminants, then choose a filter that removes them, if needed.
- DO YOU DRINK BOTTLED WATER?**  
Kick the habit. For water on-the-go, get a reusable water bottle, like stainless steel (not plastic or aluminum lined with plastic).
- ANY CANNED FOOD IN THE PANTRY?**  
Cook with fresh or frozen whenever possible; most food cans (including liquid infant formula) are lined with bisphenol-A (BPA), a toxic chemical that leaches into the food.
- DO YOU EAT CONVENTIONALLY GROWN PRODUCE?**  
Check EWG's Shopper's Guide to Pesticides to be sure you buy organic when pesticide residues are highest.
- DO YOU USE IODIZED SALT?**  
You should. Iodine is necessary to maintain healthy thyroid function.
- DO YOU EAT HIGH-MERCURY FISH?**  
Ask before eating and head for the lower-mercury types (especially for pregnant women and young children).

## BATHROOM



- DO YOU USE AIR FRESHENERS?**  
Don't! Most contain a number of toxic chemicals that contaminate the air you breathe.
- IS THERE FRAGRANCE IN YOUR PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS?**  
We don't know what's in "fragrance," so it's safer to choose all fragrance-free personal-care products. Always check ingredient lists to be sure.
- WHAT MATERIAL IS YOUR SHOWER CURTAIN?**  
Avoid vinyl shower curtains. If you get a new curtain (whatever the material), leave it outside for several days before using.
- DO YOU HAVE EXTRA PRODUCTS?**  
Less is more. Skipping cosmetics like hair spray and detangler, body sprays and powder is less toxic—and cheaper!



## LAUNDRY & CLEANING CLOSET



### ■ ARE YOUR CLEANERS GREEN?

It's hard to know without a full ingredient list, which most products don't have. Find out the ingredients by calling the manufacturer, avoid the toxic ones, and choose green-certified products whenever possible.

### ■ DO YOUR PRODUCT LABELS LIST ALL INGREDIENTS?

Most don't, but they should. Support companies that disclose all ingredients by buying their products—you have a right to know.

### ■ DO YOU NEED ALL THOSE PRODUCTS?

Most homes can be safely cleaned with a few nontoxic ingredients: vinegar (it's anti-bacterial), baking soda, water, a HEPA vacuum, microfiber mops and cloths - and some elbow grease! Skip laundry products you don't need, like dryer sheets, fabric softener, and chlorine bleach.

## ALL AROUND THE HOUSE



### ■ WAS YOUR HOME BUILT BEFORE 1978?

If so, it probably contains lead paint. When repainting, use a wet sanding technique to reduce dust, choose low VOC paints and always paint with the windows open for good ventilation. Keep kids away from rehab dust and loose chips.

### ■ GOT FOAM FURNITURE?

Foam products (like stuffed furniture and mattresses) are often treated with toxic fire retardants, so keep them well-covered. Ask whether a product is treated before you buy and choose naturally fire-resistant materials like cotton and wool, when possible. Don't "protect" your fabrics and carpets with sprayed on chemical coatings—simply clean spills quickly.

### ■ DO YOU USE COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS (CFLS)?

They contain mercury and should be handled and disposed of with care. Use them where there's no danger of breaking near children; clean up broken bulbs quickly and safely.

### ■ DO YOU USE PESTICIDES OR INSECTICIDES?

Try non-toxic alternatives first; pesticides are a last resort. If you choose to use them, store them out of reach of children. Organic gardening is healthier for kids and pets, since they live closer to the ground.

### ■ DO YOU HAVE A WOOD DECK, PICNIC TABLE OR PLAYGROUND SET?

Those made before 2005 likely contain arsenic. Test to confirm and either replace with safer wood or reduce your exposure by sealing it, replacing high-use areas and washing hands after touching, especially before eating.

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