



EWG'S GUIDE TO TRICLOSAN

Triclosan is an antibacterial chemical found in many consumer products.

The federal Food and Drug Administration banned triclosan in liquid hand soap, effective September 2017. But manufacturers can still legally formulate the chemical into dishwashing detergent. Today, it is in some personal care products such as some body washes, deodorants, acne treatments and Colgate Total toothpaste and an array of consumer products, including mattresses, food containers and shoe insoles.



An FDA advisory committee has determined that household use of antibacterial products provides no benefits over plain soap and water. The widespread use of antibacterial ingredients may encourage bacterial resistance to antibiotics.

What Health Problems Are Associated With Triclosan?

Triclosan is linked to liver and inhalation toxicity. Exposure to even low levels of triclosan may disrupt thyroid function.

Treatment does not remove 100 percent of the triclosan washed into wastewater, which means it ends up in lakes, rivers and water sources. That's especially dangerous, since triclosan is very toxic to aquatic life.

HOW TO AVOID TRICLOSAN

- 1. DON'T USE ANTIBACTERIAL SOAP.**
The American Medical Association says not to use it at home.
- 2. WATCH FOR TRICLOSAN (& TRICLOCARBAN) IN PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS.**
Read ingredient labels or use Skin Deep® to find products free of triclosan and triclocarban, its chemical cousin.
- 3. AVOID "ANTIBACTERIAL" PRODUCTS.**
Triclosan may still be used in everyday products like plastic cutting boards, food containers and shower curtains. These products don't bear labels with their ingredients but are touted as "antibacterial," or they make claims such as "odor-fighting" or "keeps food fresher, longer."

TRICLOSAN MAY BE IN THESE PRODUCTS:

Dishwashing Liquid

Body Washes

Deodorants

Acne Treatments

Toothpaste

Mattresses

Plastic Food Containers

Shoe Insoles