## Chlorinated Phosphate Flame Retardants Fact Sheet

Chlorinated phosphate flame retardants are one type of organophosphate flame retardant. They have been added to a variety of products, such as foam used in upholstered furniture, building materials, some fabrics, and children’s products.

### Chlorinated phosphate flame retardants are found in

- Polyurethane foam in a variety of products, including:
  - Upholstered furniture in homes and offices.
  - Some car seats for infants and children.
  - Motor vehicle seats, carpet padding, and foam blocks at gymnastic studios.
- Some building materials, such as insulation and plastic pipes.
- Some fabrics used in curtains, costumes, and camping tents.
- Some children’s products made from plastic, foam, or synthetic rubber, such as soft toys and arts and crafts supplies.
- Paints, varnishes, and adhesives.
- Dust in homes, offices, and cars that contain products with these flame retardants.

### Possible health concerns

Scientists are still studying how chlorinated phosphate flame retardants may affect people’s health. Some chlorinated phosphates:

- May interfere with the body’s natural hormones.
- May decrease fertility.
- May affect the developing fetus.
- May increase cancer risk.

### Possible ways to reduce exposure

- Because these flame retardants can come out of products and collect in dust:
  - Wash your and your child’s hands often, especially before preparing or eating food.
  - Clean your floors regularly, using a wet mop or HEPA vacuum cleaner if possible, and use a damp cloth to dust.
- Look for furniture that has “TB117-2013” labels, the new California flammability standard that can be met without using chemical flame retardants. The label should indicate if the furniture contains flame retardants or not.
- Avoid new and used furniture with “TB-117” labels, which is more likely to contain chemical flame retardants.
- Ask for children’s products that do not contain flame retardants. Contact the manufacturer if the seller is unsure whether a product contains flame retardants.
- Replace upholstered furniture that is torn or has crumbling foam.
- If you install new carpet, avoid using padding made from recycled or scrap foam.