

Bisphenol-A and Associated Risks

Products Containing Bisphenol-A Endanger the Public Health Safer Alternatives Are Available

- Bisphenol-A (BPA) is a synthetic hormone found in polycarbonate plastic in baby bottles, water bottles, and the epoxy resins that coat the lining of metal food cans.
- BPA is extremely unstable; heat and acidity after dishwashing and boiling can cause BPA to leach out of the plastic and into food and beverages, and then into our bodies.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 93% of Americans have detectable levels of BPA in their bodies at or above concentrations known to have adverse health effects.
- More than 200 scientific studies found evidence that link very low doses of BPA to prostate and breast cancer, obesity, altered brain development, cardiac disease, diabetes, and early puberty.

More than 20 states and localities in the US have introduced legislation to regulate BPA.

Minnesota: Governor Tim Pawlenty signed the first state law to ban BPA from children's products. (5/8/09)

Connecticut: CT Senate passed a bill that will ban BPA from baby bottles and reusable food and drink containers. (5/22/09)

Chicago, IL: Chicago became the first U.S. city to ban BPA in baby bottles and sippy cups. (5/14/09)

Suffolk County, NY: Legislature banned BPA in baby bottles and sippy cups. (3/3/09)

Alternatives to Bisphenol-A are available, feasible, and already in use by manufacturers.

- Both the baby bottle industry and the food packaging industry recognize BPA's adverse health effects and are transitioning to safer alternatives.
- Nine U.S. retailers, including Kroger, Wal-Mart, CVS, Kmart, Safeway, Sears, Toys R Us, Wegmans Foods, and Whole Foods have said they will phase out baby bottles with BPA.
- Six major baby bottle producers and many sports water bottle manufacturers, including CamelBak, Nalgene, and Polar Bottle, have eliminated or are in the process of eliminating BPA.

Congress should pass H.R. 1523- the Ban Poisonous Additives (BPA) Act of 2009- and ban BPA from all food and beverage containers.

H.R. 1523 will ban BPA from all food and beverage containers including reusables like baby bottles, sport bottles and food containers, infant formula and canned food, and soda and water bottles.

H.R. 1523 would allow the FDA to issue one-year renewable waivers if a manufacturer can show that no feasible alternative can replace BPA and require labeling of products containing BPA, providing an incentive for the market to develop alternatives more quickly.

Congress should pass the Ban Poisonous Additives Act of 2009 (H.R. 1523) to reduce exposure to the health risks associated with Bisphenol-A.