

Common Chemicals May Harm Breast Development

Some pollutants and consumer product chemicals are thought to affect breast development. Exposures to the developing fetus and newborn may lead to changes that cause problems in breast-feeding, increase the risk of breast cancer, and result in enlarged breasts in boys and men. Examples of chemicals that may harm breast development include:



Atrazine

A pesticide widely used to control weeds. It is found in food and contaminated drinking water, especially in agricultural areas.



Bisphenol A (BPA)

Used to make hard polycarbonate plastic, epoxy resins, and vinyl (PVC). It is found in food can liners, water and baby bottles, and thermal paper for receipts.



Dibutylphthalate

Used in consumer products such as paints, modeling clay, and lipstick.



Dioxin

An industrial byproduct from chlorine bleaching paper pulp and burning PVC and other plastics. People are primarily exposed from food and breast milk.



Methoxychlor

An organochlorine pesticide that is banned in the U.S. It is commonly found in house dust in older homes.



Nonylphenol

A plasticizer (plastic softener) and breakdown product of alkylphenol ethoxylate surfactants used in some laundry and other detergents.



Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs)

Flame retardants used in furniture, electronics and other products. They have been phased out in the U.S., but are abundant in house dust.



Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)

Used in non-stick, stain-resistant, and grease-resistant coatings on cookware, clothing, carpets, furniture, food papers and other products.