

The Problem

Toxic Chemicals

are contributing to an epidemic of chronic illnesses



More than one third of the US population is suffering from a range of chronic diseases, including cancers, asthma, autism, learning and developmental disabilities, birth defects, endometriosis, diabetes, ALS (“Lou Gehrig’s Disease”), and Parkinson’s disease.

Scientific evidence increasingly indicates that toxic chemicals contribute to this epidemic of diseases and disorders.

Toxic Chemicals Are Building Up in Our Bodies and Environment

More than 80,000 synthetic chemicals have been produced for use in the US since World War II. Yet very few of these have ever been adequately tested for their potential impact on our health. These chemicals have become widespread in our air, water, food, schools, workplaces, everyday products and, ultimately, our bodies. Most people have over one hundred chemicals in their bodies. The chemicals in this “toxic soup” interact with each other in the environment and in our bodies, creating unpredictable impacts.

“Now we know what we have suspected for years, that toxic chemicals are bringing anguish to thousands of families in this country.”

Larry Silver, M.D., Former President, Learning Disabilities Association of America, Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, Georgetown University Medical Center

“We call this Toxic Trespass. We did not consent for chemicals known to cause cancer and other illnesses to enter our bodies.”

Deborah Shields, Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition



CHILDREN MORE VULNERABLE

Science shows that children are more vulnerable to toxins than adults. Toxic chemicals can disrupt the normal development of children’s organs and body systems, causing long-term, irreversible damage. When parents are exposed to certain toxins before and during pregnancy, their children can develop lifelong health problems. Fetuses are uniquely vulnerable; tiny exposures during certain stages of development can cause permanent damage.

For more information or to volunteer to help, visit our website:



The Alliance for a
HEALTHY TOMORROW

www.healthytomorrow.org

Or contact **Clean Water Action** offices:

262 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108 • 617/338-8131

160 Main St. #6
Northampton, MA 01060 • 413/584-9830

741 Westminster St.
Providence, RI 02903 • 401/331-6972

LEGISLATION PROPOSES SAFER ALTERNATIVES FOR TOXIC CHEMICALS

The Solution

Replace Toxic Chemicals with **Safer Alternatives**

Some companies are already using safer alternatives. For example:



DRY CLEANING CHEMICAL: Perchloroethylene (“Perc”), used by many dry cleaners, is a probable human carcinogen. It can also cause nervous system, liver and kidney damage. Drycleaning workers are at most risk, but when we take drycleaned clothes home, perc evaporates into the air in our homes. Yet there are dry cleaners in Massachusetts that use safer processes with good customer satisfaction.

VINYL PRODUCTS EMIT DEHP: Vinyl (PVC plastic) contains dangerous additives. One common additive is DEHP, which can damage the developing male reproductive system and respiratory systems of children. DEHP also causes cancer in laboratory animals. Vinyl household products like shower curtains and vinyl flooring can emit DEHP to our air. Many IV tubes and blood bags used in hospitals leach this chemical into the patients’ blood. Yet there are replacement medical products available that do not leach this toxin, and we all know there are many other types of shower curtains and flooring!



We need a new law that will create a healthier world.

A broad coalition of over 100 organizations—health, environmental, labor, scientific, faith, and community groups—have come together to promote:

“An Act for a Healthy Massachusetts: Safer Alternatives to Toxic Chemicals.”

The bill will establish a pragmatic, gradual approach to reducing health impacts from many toxic chemicals we are exposed to in everyday life. This approach...

- Targets the worst toxic chemicals in Massachusetts—chemicals that are currently replaceable with feasible, safer alternatives for many uses
- Mandates a careful process to evaluate alternatives and replace toxic chemicals with safer alternatives where feasible
- Stimulates research and development on new technologies and solutions when a safer alternative is not currently feasible
- Proposes programs to assist workers and businesses in this transition to the safest available alternatives, funded through a fee on toxic chemicals

This bill is based on the common sense principle that:

Companies that can use a safer alternative for the same purpose as a toxic chemical should be required to do so.

Make Your Voice Count

Write your state Representative and Senator in support of An Act for a Healthy Massachusetts: Safer Alternatives to Toxic Chemicals. Urge that they help lead efforts to pass this bill!

Send letters to: The Honorable _____
The State House, Boston, MA 02133

Safer Alternatives Available

The Toxic Use Reduction Institute has identified safer alternatives for many uses of these highly toxic chemicals: Lead, formaldehyde, Perc (perchloroethylene), Hexavalent Chromium, DEHP (Diethylhexylphthalate).

