

#### Newsletter

Fall 2017





### You Made a Historic Biomonitoring Study on Chemical Exposures a Reality

At the beginning of 2017, you were invited to pee for science. For the first time ever, using a simple urine test, you were able to find out how much BPA, parabens, and other household chemicals you've got in your body.

And the first batch of test results are back!

Here's what your support of this historic study has revealed so far...

- At least two chemicals were found in all participants
- Everyone had a detectable level of methyl paraben, a preservative often used in personal care products

- Participants had lower levels of BPA than the U.S. population, but higher levels of the chemical substitute BPF
- Participants on the whole had lower levels of chemicals than the U.S. population

This is just the tip of the iceberg!

For more on what we learned from your pee, visit silentspring.org/detoxresults



Now enrolling new study participants, including children.

Unable to sign up before?
Eager to get re-tested after lowering your exposures?
Visit silentspring.org to find out how!



# Rules for Regulating Toxics Weakened Under Pressure from Chemical and Manufacturing Industries

ast year, as you may recall, Congress passed legislation reforming the chemical safety law known as the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). This bill gave the EPA authority to require testing on existing chemicals... chemicals you'll find all around you every day.

But the final rules for implementing TSCA – the ones governing how much risk the government can take with your health – weren't decided until this past summer.

Under pressure from industry (read: multi-million-dollar lobbying efforts), the new rules were diluted.

These weaker standards raise serious concerns about the EPA's ability to adequately regulate

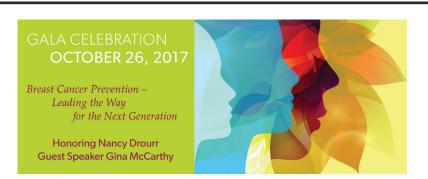
chemicals that may be harmful to your health. Chemicals that may be in household products you use every day. Chemicals that have never been tested for safety.

Your continued generosity is critical to keeping the public informed and engaged. You can ensure Silent Spring has the resources to speak out when public health is at risk. And you can keep our independent research projects going strong. Strong data will be critical for supporting state and local efforts to pressure manufacturers and brands to switch to safer alternatives.

For more on the new EPA rules, visit silentspring.org/tsca



Your support will fuel independent research on the risks of chemicals in everyday products.



Last Chance for Tickets! silentspring.org/gala

# Toxic Chemicals in Building Materials Threaten Air Quality in "Green" Housing

When you hear the words "green housing," images of health and wellness likely come to mind. Unfortunately, builders often don't think about whether the energy-efficient materials they're using are also safe.

The result? Indoor air pollution.

Your support of Silent Spring's latest study revealed a new understanding of where many indoor pollutants are coming from...some from chemicals leaching out of building materials, others from the items people bring into their homes.

"Most buildings aren't designed with people's health in mind. Yet, indoor air pollution can lead to a range of health problems."

Robin Dodson, Research Scientist at Silent Spring Institute

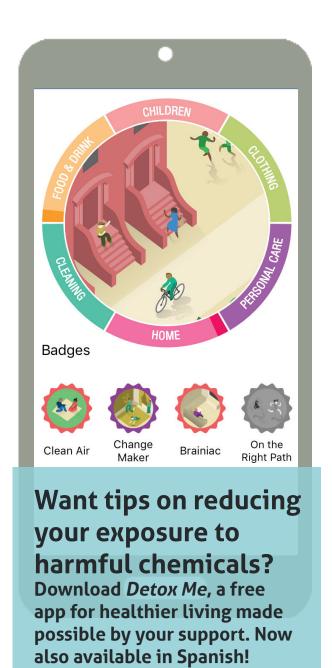
Regardless of the source, these chemicals are linked to asthma, hormone disruption, reproductive disorders, lower IQ, cancer, and other health problems.

Data collected pre- and post-occupancy allow you to know which chemicals came into homes from building materials...and which residents themselves brought in.

As a result, you may be better able to understand the sources of chemicals in your home

and avoid them. Your support of this study could also lead to better green building standards, and healthier homes.

To learn more about this research, visit silentspring.org/greenhousing



#### Federal Commission Votes to Outlaw Group of Toxic Flame Retardants

ast month, your vision of a toxic-free future took a huge leap forward. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission voted to remove an entire class of flame retardants from the market.

This means a group of chemicals called "organohalogen flame retardants" will be prohibited from products you use every day. Things like mattresses, upholstered furniture, children's toys, baby products, and electronics.

Banning an entire class of chemicals, rather than just one "bad actor," is a huge victory for public health. This comprehensive approach prevents manufacturers from substituting one toxic chemical for another. A practice that is all too common.

This win would not have been possible without your steadfast support.

As you may know, Silent Spring has been tracking exposure to flame retardants for more than 15 years. You've helped us learn how people are exposed to this group of chemicals...chemicals linked with cancer, decreased IQ in children, reproductive problems, hormone disruption and other health issues.

"The more evidence that accumulates, the stronger we see the case against the use of these chemicals."

Robert Adler, Commissioner of U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission



Silent Spring scientist Kathryn
Rodgers testifies in support of
banning toxic flame retardants
from consumer products you use
every day. With your support,
we've been sounding the alarm
for more than a decade about
widespread exposure to these
dangerous chemicals.

Advocating for your beliefs and best interests, Silent Spring Institute filed an affidavit in support of banning organohalogen flame retardants. We also testified before the commission on the dangers these chemicals pose to your health.

For more on your latest victory, visit silentspring.org/flameretardants.