



# Toxic Times

A weekly recap of the top stories on toxics in Michigan and beyond.

News Highlights from February 4, 2009 – February 10, 2009

## MICHIGAN NEWS

### **New lead law worries resale shops**

*The Detroit News*, Thursday, February 5, 2009

With new legislation requiring certification of lead levels in children's products, Detroit-area thrift and resale shops are worried that they will lose business or be fined.

Concurrently, parents are concerned about safety while still trying to save money in the current economy.

<http://www.detnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090205/BIZ/902050391/1001>

## NATIONAL NEWS

### **A new window into hormone-altering chemicals**

*Environmental Health News*, Monday, February 9, 2009

A new electronic database, including a timeline of human fetal development, will display scientific data regarding controversial chemicals. The database is scheduled to go public Tuesday, February 10, 2009.

<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/news/critical-windows>

### **Rat study links smoking while pregnant to youngster's diabetes, obesity**

*Environmental Health News*, Monday, February 9, 2009

A new study has isolated how nicotine alters the genes of fetuses that govern fat and insulin production. The blood levels of the drug were comparable to those found in mothers who smoke or use nicotine replacements during pregnancy.

<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/newscience/rat-study-links-smoking-to-obesity-diabetes/>

### **Toddlers less able to detox arsenic than infants**

*Environmental Health News*, Friday, February 6, 2009

New research measuring the metabolized components of arsenic in the urine of infants and toddlers has shown that the latter group is less able to excrete the toxin. This change in metabolism occurs around the time that the child is likely to start eating solid foods, which may increase the exposure to arsenic depending on the residential area.

<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/newscience/toddlers-less-able-to-detox-arsenic/>

**Older autos source of flame retardants**

*Environmental Health News*, Wednesday, February 4, 2009

A new study found that dust in older model automobiles has higher concentrations of PBDEs, a chemical group used for flame retardation. Though dust in homes also contains some PBDEs in low concentrations, researchers believe that much of the exposure to the chemicals comes from the limited time spent in the autos, where levels can be 10-fold higher.

<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/newscience/older-autos-flame-retardants/>

**Lead safety up in the air**

*The Portland Oregonian*, Saturday, February 7, 2009

After lobbying in protest of what some deemed unclear rules of compliance, manufacturers and retailers managed to convince the federal government to postpone its deadline for lead and phthalate testing in children’s products. This delay has left consumers wondering once again which products are safe for their children.

[http://www.oregonlive.com/business/index.ssf/2009/02/lead\\_safety\\_up\\_in\\_the\\_air.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/business/index.ssf/2009/02/lead_safety_up_in_the_air.html)

**CPSC aims to ease confusion over lead law**

*The Associated Press*, Friday, February 6, 2009

The Consumer Product Safety Commission issued new guidelines for a law that would require children’s products to undergo testing for lead and phthalates and would ban any products that exceeded new federal limits. In addition to postponing the deadline for testing, the organization is making exemptions for certain businesses and libraries.

<http://www.syracuse.com/newsflash/index.ssf?/base/politics-6/123396774135000.xml&storylist=topstories&thispage=1>

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**Green groups fume as street pollution soars**

*The Edinburgh Scotsman*, Sunday, February 8, 2009

The number of Scottish streets with dangerously high pollution increased from 14 in 2007 to 21 in 2008 despite years of effort and millions of pounds to promote greener transportation.

<http://news.scotsman.com/health/Green-groups-fume-as-street.4958410.jp>

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*The Michigan Network for Children's Environmental Health is a coalition of health professionals, health-affected groups, environmental organizations, and others dedicated to a safe and less toxic world for Michigan's children. Through education, outreach, and advocacy, we seek to protect Michigan's children from adverse impacts caused by exposure to widespread hazardous chemicals. Visit: [www.mnceh.org](http://www.mnceh.org).*