



Toxic Times

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

News Highlights from September 21-27, 2008

NATIONAL NEWS

Plastics in Our Diet: The Need for BPA Regulation

Scientific American, October Edition

Studies have surfaced in recent months that certain plastic products we use every day could be interfering with our hormone systems. Approximately 100,000 synthetic chemicals are approved for consumer products and industrial processes—and certain classes of them, it seems, are dangerous to our health.

<http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=plastics-in-our-diet>

EPA ducks perchlorate standards

The Sun, Friday September 19, 2008

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency does not plan to set a drinking-water standard for perchlorate, a common regional contaminant used in explosives like rocket fuel and fireworks. Perchlorate can interfere with the thyroid gland, affecting metabolism as well as mental and physical development.

http://www.sbsun.com/search/ci_10579302

Consumer groups fret over chemicals in teen cosmetics

USA Today, Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Teenagers may be contaminated with potentially risky chemicals from cosmetics, according to a small study released Wednesday from the Environmental Working Group. The environmental group, which focuses on hazards in consumer products, says the study is the first to measure many of these chemicals in this age group.

http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/retail/2008-09-24-cosmetics-chemicals_N.htm

State sues over crib, changing table warnings

San Francisco Chronicle, Thursday, September 25, 2008

Some baby furniture manufacturers aren't warning consumers about the dangers of a toxic gas emanating from cribs and changing tables, according to a lawsuit announced Wednesday by the California attorney general.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/09/25/BAV7134EVH.DTL>

Expert: Kids more at risk from cell phones

UPI.com, Friday, September 26, 2008

The risk of brain cancer for children who use cell phones is far greater than for adults, two researchers told the U.S. Congress. Dr. Ronald Herberman, director of the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, and Dr. David Carpenter, director of Institute for Health and the Environment at University of Albany testified on cell phones before the House Subcommittee on Domestic Policy.

http://www.upi.com/Health_News/2008/09/26/Expert_Kids_more_at_risk_from_cell_phones/UPI-29371222403322/

The Great Diaper Debate

Boston Globe, Sunday, September 28, 2008

Many parents who want to lessen the environmental impact of raising a baby are choosing cloth over disposable diapers. Problem is, they may not always be making the greener choice.

http://www.boston.com/lifestyle/green/articles/2008/09/28/the_great_diaper_debate/?page=full

Citing cost, USDA kills pesticide-testing program

Chicago Tribune, Saturday, September 27, 2008

The Bush administration has abruptly halted a government program that tests the levels of pesticides in fruits, vegetables and field crops, arguing that the \$8 million-a-year program is too expensive—a decision critics say could make it harder to protect consumers from toxins in their food.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-pesticidessep28,0,6191823.story>

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Swimming in chlorinated pools 'increases asthma risk five-fold'

Daily Telegraph, Thursday, September 25, 2008

Children who swim regularly in chlorinated pools are five times more likely to develop asthma, research has found. Mounting research is suggesting that the chlorine used to keep the pools clean could be contributing to the development of the condition.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/politics/health/3073002/Swimming-in-chlorinated-pools-increases-asthma-risk-five-fold.html>

Book focuses on not-so-obvious toxins

Times & Transcript, Saturday, September 27, 2008

When it comes to the big obvious stuff people understand how toxins can harm our bodies. But what about the not so obvious? Toothpaste. Carpets. Hairspray. Dry-cleaned clothes. Soap. Shampoo. All the stuff we spray, slather and let our bodies touch every day. They're all chemicals, says Brenda Watson, a naturopathic doctor from Florida and author of "The Detox Strategy." And all toxic to our body.

<http://timestranscript.canadaeast.com/lifetimes/article/427653>