

The Household Toxic Tour: Nursery

Beware of babies products made from **PVC** plastic. Especially make sure that the teats for the baby's bottle, all teethers, dummies and soft chewable toys are PVC free. PVC contains many toxic chemicals which may cause damage to the human reproductive system, harm developing foetuses and damage the liver, kidney and lung. As far as possible, demand non-PVC products for your baby and his/her room.



Some disposable **nappies** contain a chemical called Organotins, which are suspected of disrupting hormones in the human body.

During the year 2000 there was a scare after Crayola **crayons** were found to contain traces of asbestos. Crayola state that their crayons are safe now, but to be on the safe side buy wax crayons wherever possible. Also be careful of what **glues and paints** you allow your child(ren) to play with. Some paint pigments can give off toxic fumes, so, if you can, buy natural pigment paint. Also buy or make **play dough** that has been coloured with natural colours as opposed to artificial colours, such as tartrazine.

Also beware of paints containing cadmium or cobalt as both can cause damage to the lungs and breathing problems. Permanent markers contain aromatic hydrocarbons (including xylene and toluene), which can cause blurred vision, irritate the nose, eyes and airways, cause dizziness, fatigue, nausea and headaches.

Talcum powder (or baby powder) is made from the naturally occurring magnesium silicate, which is crushed into powder form. It may contain traces of asbestos, which is cancer causing. Long-term use of talcum powder in the genital area increases the risk of ovarian cancer in women. If talc makes contact with open wounds it may cause inflammation.

Johnson's Baby Shampoo contains a chemical called Quaternium 15 which may cause cancer and dermatitis.