

Healthy Homecoming House Party Kit:

*Coming Home to
Healthy Children's
Products*





Thank You for Hosting a Healthy Homecoming Party!

Products and materials we use every day are made with toxic chemicals. This can harm our health and the environment. Hosting a *Healthy Homecoming Party* is a great way to learn and share knowledge about how to use safer alternatives to toxic chemicals and prevent pollution. The information in this party kit will help your family and friends learn how look for safer products, and avoid products which may cause harm. They will see that relying on toxic chemicals is not only dangerous, but also unnecessary.

Each kit focuses on a different aspect of coming home to healthy products, but all contain the same underlying message: we can get toxic chemicals out of our lives by making different personal choices, calling on product manufacturers to choose safer materials and supporting stronger government oversight of chemicals. By hosting this event, you are helping to build a community of people who want to create positive change. It is a great opportunity to spread the word and actively work to replace unnecessary toxic chemicals with safer alternatives.

You can host a Healthy Homecoming Party as a small private event with your friends or a larger event in collaboration with local community organizations, daycare centers, small businesses, student groups, or faith-based groups.

No matter how you choose to throw the party, this kit will guide you through the steps and provide materials to get you started. Please read this entire kit and contact us if you have any questions.

Thank you for supporting a healthy environment.

Now let's have some fun!

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Steps to Hosting a Healthy Homecoming Party



Pick a topic

This kit addresses children's products, but we recommend you choose a specific topic that you and your friends want to know more about – this will help to keep the party focused and ensure you have time to take action. Read the Background and Talking Points thoroughly to prepare yourself for being a resource to your guests.



Pick a date

Get started early to increase your chances of having good attendance. Two to four weeks are enough to plan a smaller event. If you want to have a larger party – 15 or more people – or if you are going to host the party with a community group, you'll be more successful if you begin planning one to two months in advance.

Be sure to keep in mind any possible conflicts with holidays or school schedules. It is a good idea to check with a few guests to confirm they are available before finalizing the date. A save-the-date e-mail or phone call can also be useful. You do not need to have all the details finalized to start sending out basic invitations.



Pick a location

Most parties are held at home – either yours or a friend's. You need an area that is large enough for the group you are inviting, and space to spread out and make or demonstrate any products. Churches, community centers, or campus rooms are great options as well. Depending on the activities you choose for your party, you may prefer a place with a sink or internet access.



Invite people!

After choosing the time and place, send out invitations, preferably two to three weeks in advance. You can make or buy invitations and mail them to people, post a flyer if you want to make it open to the public, send an e-mail, or use an online service like Evite (www.evite.com). These free online services save paper, allow you to design colorful invitations, and track RSVPs.



Optional: Notify local media of the event

If you'd like your greater community to hear about the event, or if it is open to the public, you can contact your local newspaper, radio, or TV station to let them know about it. This is a great way to spread the word! A sample media advisory is included in this kit, and feel free to contact Clean and Healthy New York for help.



Buy your party supplies

Check the Supplies Checklist to determine what kind of materials you will need. Consider having food or drink to share and get people talking. You can also ask guests to bring some supplies (containers, baking soda, etc) or a snack to share.



Send out a reminder

Send a phone or e-mail reminder two to three days in advance to remind your invitees of the event (phone calls are most effective). Having a reliable head count will also help you ensure that you have plenty of supplies. This is a good time to review the talking points and check the website for any current events.



Have a party!

Below is a sample agenda for a Healthy Homecoming Party. Reviewing the rest of the materials in this kit will help you decide exactly how you would like the event to flow. You may want to ask someone to take pictures to help document the fun.

- Mix and mingle with snacks, ask new guests sign in and make a name tag
- Welcome guests, everyone introduces themselves
- Presentation: Use the Talking Points to talk about this issue. (page 8)
- Questions, answers, and discussion: It's OK to say you don't know the answer, and to use Clean and Healthy New York staff as a resource to get back to your guests with the information they want.
- Group Activity: There are several options in each kit. Choose the one that you like best! (page 10)
- Take Action: Let guests know about any current news or updates on relevant opportunities to act (check the Clean and Healthy New York website) as you make a difference with one of these activities, like making a phone call or writing a letter. (page 11)
- Thank you and wrap up: Please ask guests to fill out the Guest Survey so we can continue to improve these materials. Don't forget to collect the surveys and send them to Clean and Healthy New York!



Follow up

Within a week, thank the guests for attending. Feel free to encourage guests to hold their own party, maybe focusing on a different topic! If there were unanswered questions from guests, please send them to us. Also, please send us the details about your event, how it went, recommendations for improvement, and of course, pictures!



Frequently Asked Questions

How much does it cost to host a Healthy Homecoming Party?

You can throw a Healthy Homecoming Party (HH Party) for very little cost. Most hosts make about 20 copies of assorted materials and arrange for light refreshments.

How long should a HH Party last?

HH Parties commonly last between 1 and 2 hours, but this is very flexible.

How many people usually attend a HH Party?

It's up to you! Generally, between 5 and 15 people, but this is also flexible. Even two people talking about the issues and getting involved can help make a difference.

Do I have to get permission to throw a HH Party?

No, but Clean and Healthy New York likes to stay informed about who is using these materials and keep records for our supporters. We would like to know when you held your party, your topic, and the number of guests.

What do I do if a guest asks a question that I cannot answer?

It is very common for guests and hosts to have questions that the scientists have yet to answer. We encourage using the enclosed fact sheets and resource websites during a party to answer any questions that may arise. If you can't find an answer, please email us at info@cleanhealthyny.org!

Can I charge admission to a HH Party?

No, but if you would like to collect donations for Clean and Healthy New York at your party, please see the Healthy Homecoming Fundraising Tips on the Healthy Homecoming website.

Do I need to send anything to CHNY after the Party?

We would love to get feedback and pictures from your party! We would appreciate any means you choose of sending them our way. We would also like to keep in touch with folks who want to know more or get more involved, so please send along any contact information you collect. For example, the guest surveys, contact information, and photos can be mailed to 62 Grand St, Albany, NY, 12207, or emailed to info@cleanhealthyny.org.



Background: Healthy Children's Products

Children's products - including toys, jewelry, clothing and baby bottles - can contain harmful chemicals linked to hormone problems, difficulty learning, reproductive problems, and cancer. Babies and children are most vulnerable because they breathe, eat, and drink more per pound of body weight than adults, and are at important stages of development. Babies and toddlers inevitably put everything into their mouths, so harmful chemicals can go directly into their bodies. Some of these early exposures can result in lifelong consequences.

Despite hundreds of toxic chemicals used to make products that our children put in their mouths, play with, or wear, the U.S. government has little power to restrict these chemicals. Following the recent public outrage over lead in toys, as well as contamination of a range of products coming from China, Congress passed the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA), which sets limits on lead and phthalates in children's products. This is a step in the right direction, but because of the narrow scope of chemicals, products and age groups covered, only serves as a small band-aid on a much larger problem.

What to Watch For:

Polycarbonate

Bisphenol A (BPA) is the building block of polycarbonate plastic. It was first made before 1900, and was first discovered to act like the hormone estrogen in the 1930s. Like so many now-commonplace chemicals, BPA's use began to rise starting in the 1950s, when chemists figured out how to use it to make polycarbonate (hard plastic) and epoxy resins (flexible glues/membranes). (See Environmental Working Group's timeline for more historical benchmarks.)

Today, over 6 billion pounds of BPA are produced each year, making it one of the most highly produced plastics in the world.

BPA is used to make polycarbonate baby bottles, toddler sippy cups, water bottles, children's toys and more. As an epoxy, BPA is used to line food and beverage

cans and jar lids. BPA can leach into our food and drink, especially when the plastic is heated. Over the past decade, hundreds of scientific studies have linked even small amounts of BPA to many common health problems like certain cancers, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, miscarriage, type 2 diabetes, and obesity, as documented by Dr. Fred VomSaal of the University of Missouri. The US Centers for Disease Control found BPA in 93% of Americans, often at levels shown to cause health problems in laboratory studies. Many companies now offer safer alternatives (see Informational Handout), but BPA is still used in products for older children and adults.

Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)

PVC is toxic throughout its entire lifecycle. According to the EPA, its production and



burning creates dioxins which are long-lasting toxins linked to cancer and reproductive harm. PVC factories are commonly located in low-income neighborhoods and communities of color (such as Lake Charles, LA), polluting air and water and putting residents in danger. Inside the factory, workers are at greater risk for cancers and lung problems, according to the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. Lastly, the Container Recycling Institute states that PVC is hard to recycle and easily contaminates entire batches of other recyclable plastics.

Chemicals added to PVC, like lead, cadmium, organotins, BPA and phthalates, can contaminate our environment and bodies. When phthalates get into our bodies, they can act like hormones, leading to a variety of reproductive problems, primarily in baby boys. As a first step, in 2008 the US government banned six of the most common phthalates found in children's products, but then postponed testing requirements for three years. Phthalates can still occur in PVC products for adults and older kids.

PVC also occurs in siding, decking, wall covering, flooring, chairs, tablecloths, inflatable toys, shower curtains, food wrap, packaging, raincoats, flooring, lunch boxes, backpacks, 3-ring binders, pool liners, purses, belts and shoes.

Lead

Lead is a heavy metal previously used in house paint, water pipes and gasoline. The U.S. government restricted its use in those products due to the many health problems it can cause. Doing so has dramatically decreased our exposure to this toxic metal. Lead damages virtually every system in our body, especially the brain and nervous system. Even small exposures can cause lowered IQ, learning, memory, and behavior problems, according to the EPA. The CPSC has set limits for lead in children's products, but it has only a limited ability to enforce those requirements.

Lead is still widely used to make a variety of products including inexpensive jewelry, chains and pendants, painted toys, and as a color stabilizer in soft vinyl products such as printed T-shirts, fake leather shoes, doll's clothes, back packs, balls and bats, and electrical wires.



References and Resources

About the Chemicals and Products:

- PVC Information:
 - CHEJ's PVC site: www.besafenet.com/pvc/about.htm
 - Healthy Building Network: www.healthybuilding.net
 - www.greenpeace.org/usa/campaigns/toxics/go-pvc-free
 - [www.pvcinformation.org/assets/pdf/Wilma Subra report on PVC fenceline communities.pdf](http://www.pvcinformation.org/assets/pdf/Wilma_Subra_report_on_PVC_fenceline_communities.pdf)
- Phthalates Information:
 - Environmental Working Group info: www.ewg.org/chemindex/term/480
 - Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008: www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h110-4040
- Bisphenol A Information:
 - BPA timeline: www.ewg.org/reports/bpatimeline
 - Summary Article: www.fastcompany.com/magazine/132/the-real-story-on-bpa.html
 - Baby Bottle and Formula Guide: www.ewg.org/babysafe
 - BPA studies documenting harm: [endocrinedisruptors.missouri.edu/pdf/articles/Bisphenol A References.doc](http://endocrinedisruptors.missouri.edu/pdf/articles/Bisphenol_A_References.doc)
- Lead Information:
 - US EPA's lead profile: www.epa.gov/oppt/lead/pubs/leadpdf.pdf
 - Center for Environmental Health's lead information: www.ceh.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=36&Itemid=51

General Information:

- Healthy Children's Products and Toys Database: www.healthystuff.org
- Face to Face with Toy Safety: www.ehponline.org/members/2008/116-2/focus.html
- Less Toxic Baby Care: www.lesstoxicguide.ca/index.asp?fetch=babycare
- The Soft Landing: www.thesoftlanding.com



Talking Points

The Story:

- Products sold in stores are not always diligently screened for safety.
- Our children can be exposed unintentionally to chemicals through products.
- Children are more vulnerable than adults to the impacts from chemicals.
- As with other products, outdated federal laws have left parents with little information about which chemicals or products are of concern or how to avoid them.
- In 2008, the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) was passed, which placed some limits on lead and phthalates in children's products.
- These limits are inadequately enforced.
- Other dangerous chemicals can still be found in baby products. Without better laws, parents are left guessing about how to keep their children safe.

Plastics to avoid:

Polycarbonate

- BPA, the building block of polycarbonate plastic, can harm natural hormone systems.
- BPA can leach from polycarbonate, often labeled as number 7 with "PC" in a "recycling" logo (although not all 7s are polycarbonate).
- Hundreds of studies have found health problems from low-level BPA exposures, including links to prostate and breast cancer, reproductive problems, diabetes, and obesity.
- Most major baby bottle companies no longer use BPA.
- Many products are now BPA-free, but you might still find BPA in older sports water bottles, baby bottles, sippy cups, 'shatterproof' plastic cups, children's tableware, toys, food can linings, and infant formula packaging.

Polyvinylchloride (PVC) or Vinyl

- PVC is toxic throughout its entire lifecycle of production, use, and disposal.
- Chemicals in PVC, like lead and phthalates, contaminate our environment and bodies. When phthalates get into our bodies, they can act like hormones, leading to a variety of reproductive problems, primarily in baby boys.



- As a first step, in 2008 the US government banned 6 phthalates from children's products, but phthalates can still be found in PVC products for adults and older kids.
- PVC factories are commonly located in low-income communities.
- PVC factory workers are at greater risk for cancers and lung problems.
- PVC can be found in siding, decking, chairs, tablecloths, toys, shower curtains, food wrap, packaging, raincoats, flooring, lunch boxes, backpacks, and 3-ring binders.

Lead

- Despite numerous toy recalls and the CPSIA, lead may still be found in children's ceramics such as decorative mugs or piggy banks, paint on wooden toys, as a stabilizer in vinyl plastic toys and accessories, or in children's jewelry.
- Lead harms every system of the body, and causes a variety of health problems.
- There is no safe level of exposure.

What you can do:

To protect yourself and your family:

- Avoid polycarbonate plastic. Choose safer materials, like glass, stainless steel, or plastics labeled as BPA-free.
- Choose toys that are not made of PVC (#3) or other soft, flexible plastic.
- Look for lead-free ceramics, especially those used for children's food and drinks.
- Avoid inexpensive kids' costume jewelry
- Avoid older toys with painted wood or metal surfaces.

To help change the marketplace:

- If you are not sure whether a product contains BPA, PVC, or lead, call the company and ask.
- Thank manufacturers who have committed to using safer materials (see Informational Handout).
- Support retailers selling BPA-free bottles (see Informational Handout).
- Contact Clean and Healthy New York to find out other ways to get involved.



Group Activities

As your guests arrive, start by talking about the basics of the issue using your background knowledge and the talking points. Then, these group activities are a great way of encouraging your guests to get involved and understand how their actions can make a difference. Choose one or more:

- Make a list of good and bad children's toys in your home and environment (ex: unfinished wood toys vs. inexpensive costume jewelry). Go over which toys might have what toxins and how to identify risky toys.
- Discuss safer alternatives to common sources of toxins in children's products and how to identify these safer alternatives (see Healthystuff.org).
- Watch *Contaminated Without Consent* to learn about the importance of these issues (www.contaminatedwithoutconsent.org/).
- Are there stores in your community that sell natural or alternative products? If so, have everyone brainstorm a list. Be sure to thank the stores next time you shop.
- Ask everyone to bring a water bottle, baby bottle, or sippy cup, and then check the bottom to see what it is made of. (If there is no symbol, that shows the need for better information!)
- Check your house for PVC and polycarbonate: be sure to check water bottles, food storage containers, items in your refrigerator, toys, school supplies, shower curtains, and furniture. Afterwards, brainstorm a list of alternative, non-plastic toys, food storage or school supplies.



Taking Action

An important part of any educational party is that your guests stay involved and share their new knowledge. Here are some ways your guests can take action to further spread the word and make a difference.

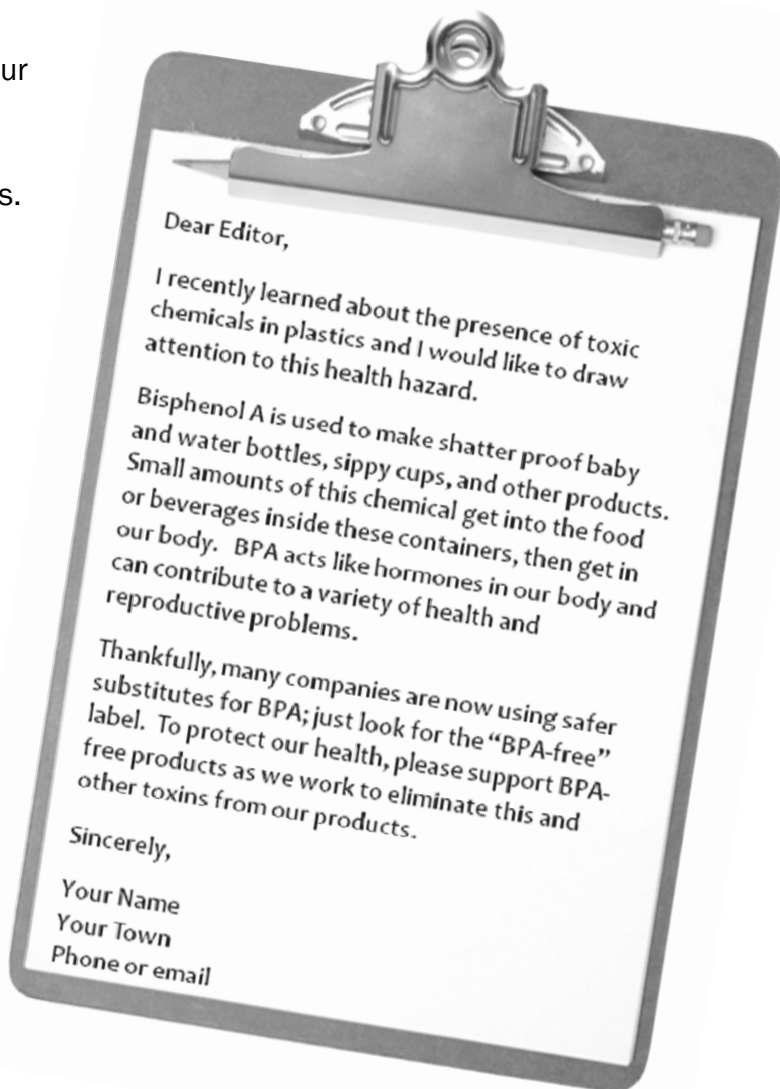
- Write a letter to the editor voicing your concerns about this topic. We have included an outline and an example letter. Be sure to tell your personal story in your letters.
- Write or call the manufacturer of a plastic product. Ask them not to include PVC, lead or BPA in any children's products they make. Look for a mailing address or an 800 number on the product or packaging.

Letter to the Editor

1. Look for details on how to submit your letter in the opinions section of your paper.
2. Keep your letter to 250 words or less.
3. Never be rude or inappropriate (not that you would be!)
4. Always include your name, address, and phone or e-mail for verification.

Outline:

- If possible, start your letter by mentioning a related health or environmental issue recently covered in the paper.
- Mention the issue you are concerned about.
- State what you are asking for (ex: manufacturers to make safer products, etc).
- Tell why this issue matters to you.
- Close your letter with a point you'd like readers to remember.



Dear Editor,

I recently learned about the presence of toxic chemicals in plastics and I would like to draw attention to this health hazard.

Bisphenol A is used to make shatter proof baby and water bottles, sippy cups, and other products. Small amounts of this chemical get into the food or beverages inside these containers, then get in our body. BPA acts like hormones in our body and can contribute to a variety of health and reproductive problems.

Thankfully, many companies are now using safer substitutes for BPA; just look for the "BPA-free" label. To protect our health, please support BPA-free products as we work to eliminate this and other toxins from our products.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Your Town

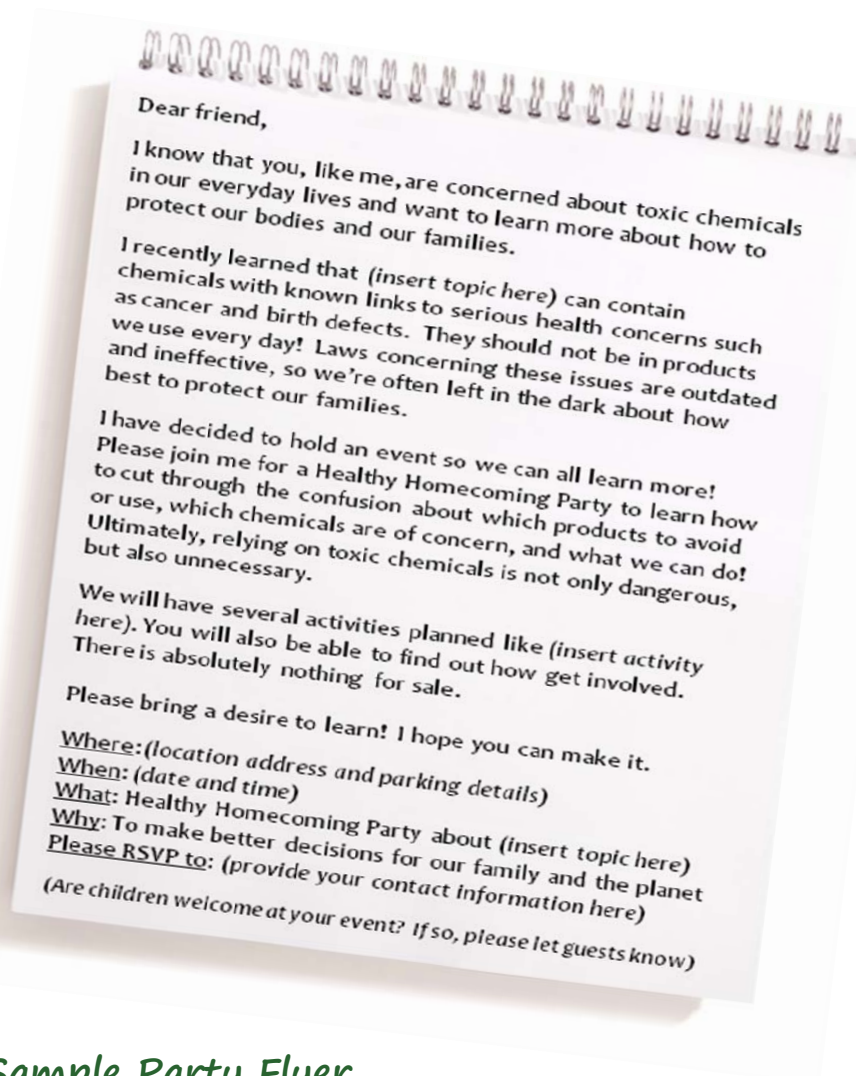
Phone or email



Preparation Materials

Sample Invite

To invite your friends, family, coworkers, and neighbors to your Healthy Homecoming Party, you may want to try several different approaches, such as e-mail, paper-mail, a telephone call, or a chance encounter in the grocery store. If you are searching for the text of a written invitation, here is an example.



Sample Party Flyer

Hanging flyers on bulletin boards can be an effective way to advertise and connect with neighbors. Here is an example flyer. A digital, editable version of this flyer is available on the Healthy Homecoming Party website.



Sample Media Advisory

Local news sources often like to report on how their readers are working towards making a stronger community. Stories that feature Healthy Homecoming Parties greatly enhance the effect of the event. Feel free to distribute a media advisory to your local newspaper, television station, or radio station to increase the reach of your efforts. Here is the basic format for a media advisory to get you started.

MEDIA ADVISORY

Title (Ex: Join Us to Learn about Chemicals in Products)

Date of event

WHAT: A brief description of the event (topic covered, purpose, etc)

WHEN: Day of week, full date, time of day

WHERE: Name of building (street address, room number)

CONTACT: Local: List name, phone number, and e-mail address (if appropriate). State-level: Clean & Healthy NY, www.cleanhealthyny.org

DETAILS: (OPTIONAL) Can include information about: who the event is targeted toward, the event goal, parking information, or anything else that the audience needs to know.





Party Materials

As you prepare for your party, we have provided you with a checklist of things to gather, print, or set up to ensure your party runs smoothly. Be sure to print enough copies of the items in *italics* before your party begins.

Supplies Checklist

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Guest sign in sheet</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Paper and pencils for guests |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Fact sheets for guests</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Food and/or drink |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Guest Surveys</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Camera to take pictures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Name tags | <input type="checkbox"/> Video player, if using |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sample product display tables | <input type="checkbox"/> Addresses or phone numbers to write or call |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer with internet, if using | |

Planning notes:



Healthy Homecoming Sign In Sheet

Clean and Healthy New York works to advance broad policy and market changes to protect people and communities from toxic chemicals. *Your support will help us:*

- Advance policy and market campaigns that remove dangerous, unnecessary chemicals from commerce.
- Promote healthy products, economic approaches, and solutions.
- Educate and empower individuals to engage in campaigns for environmental health and justice.

Please add your voice to the call for environmental health by checking the box below. We will update you via email. Clean and Healthy New York does not share lists.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Street Address, City, State, Zip Code</i>	<i>Phone Number (with area code)</i>	<i>E-mail Address</i>	<i>Contact me</i>
				<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>



Healthy Homecoming Guest Survey

Name (if willing): _____

Presenter: _____ Host (if different): _____

Date: _____ Location: _____

First, please give us some quick feedback on the presentation.

<i>I learned</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> a lot	<input type="checkbox"/> some	<input type="checkbox"/> not much	<i>from this presentation</i>
<i>I had</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> a lot of	<input type="checkbox"/> some	<input type="checkbox"/> not much	<i>fun today</i>
<i>The presentation gave</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> too much	<input type="checkbox"/> just right	<input type="checkbox"/> not enough	<i>information</i>
<i>The handout had</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> too much	<input type="checkbox"/> just right	<input type="checkbox"/> not enough	<i>information</i>
<i>Based on what I learned today, I plan to make</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> a lot of	<input type="checkbox"/> some	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<i>different purchasing decisions</i>

Please list three changes you plan to make in your personal purchasing decisions:

Please suggest two ways we could improve the presentation:

Based on the presentation and activities, I would (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Host a similar event | <input type="checkbox"/> Organize in-district meeting with officials |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Join an e-mail list for more information | <input type="checkbox"/> Collect postcards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Join an action alert list | <input type="checkbox"/> Work on local issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Call my elected officials | <input type="checkbox"/> Write a letter to the editor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Come to Albany to meet with policymakers | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Other thoughts?



Coming Home to Healthy Children's Products

The Problem

Children's products can contain harmful chemicals linked to difficulty learning, hormone problems, and cancer. Babies and children are most vulnerable because they breathe, eat, and drink more per pound of body weight than adults, and can be affected in important developmental stages.



Despite hundreds of toxic chemicals used to make products that our children put in their mouths, play with, and wear, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has little power to restrict these chemicals. Following the recent public outrage over lead in toys, Congress passed the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA), which sets limits on lead and phthalates in children's products. This is a step in the right direction, but because of its narrow scope, only serves as a band-aid on a much larger problem.

Chemicals to Watch Out For:

Polycarbonate: Bisphenol A (BPA), the building block of polycarbonate plastic, can interrupt hormones in our bodies. BPA can leach from polycarbonate plastic, often labeled as number 7 with PC in a "recycled" logo. Hundreds of studies have found health problems from low-level BPA exposures, including links to prostate and breast cancer, reproductive problems, diabetes, and obesity. Most major baby bottle companies no longer use BPA.

Look for it in: plastic shatterproof baby bottles, sippy cups, plastic feeding items, infant formula cans and baby food jar lids (as well as most other cans and jar lids).

Polyvinylchloride (PVC) or Vinyl: PVC is toxic throughout its entire lifecycle of production, use, and disposal. PVC factories are commonly located in low-income neighborhoods, putting residents in danger of water and air pollution. PVC factory workers are at greater risk for cancers and lung problems.

Chemicals in PVC like lead and phthalates can pollute our environment and bodies. In 2008, the US banned six phthalates found in children's products, but older products may still be for sale and enforcement is weak. PVC products for adults and older kids can still contain phthalates.



Look for it in: soft plastic toys made with PVC, vinyl fabrics including shirt decals, bibs, doll clothes, and teethingers.

Lead: Despite numerous toy recalls and the CPSIA, lead can still be found in children's ceramics such as decorative mugs or piggy banks, paint on wooden toys, as a stabilizer in vinyl plastic toys, or in children's jewelry. Even small exposures can cause lowered IQ, learning, memory, and behavior problems.

Look for it in: mugs and painted ceramics, older toys, children's jewelry, and painted toys.

What Can I Do?

Bisphenol A:

- Avoid polycarbonate plastic. Choose glass or plastics labeled as BPA-free.
- Thank manufacturers who use safer materials: Avent, Disney, First Years, Gerber, Dr. Brown, Playtex, and Evenflow now make only BPA-free baby bottles.
- Nestle, Similac and Enfamil all have powdered formula available in BPA-free packaging.
- Support retailers selling BPA-free bottles, including Wegmans, Rite Aid, CVS/Pharmacy, Babies 'R' Us, Wal-Mart, Kmart and Target.

If you are unsure, call the manufacturer and ask whether your product contains BPA, lead or phthalates. Ask them to use safer materials.

Host your own Healthy Homecoming Party! Find out how at www.cleanhealthyny.org/hhparty.html

PVC and Lead:

- Choose toys that are not made of PVC (#3) or other soft, flexible plastic.
- Look for lead-free ceramics, especially those used for children's food and drinks.
- Avoid inexpensive kids' costume jewelry
- Avoid older toys with painted wood or metal surfaces.



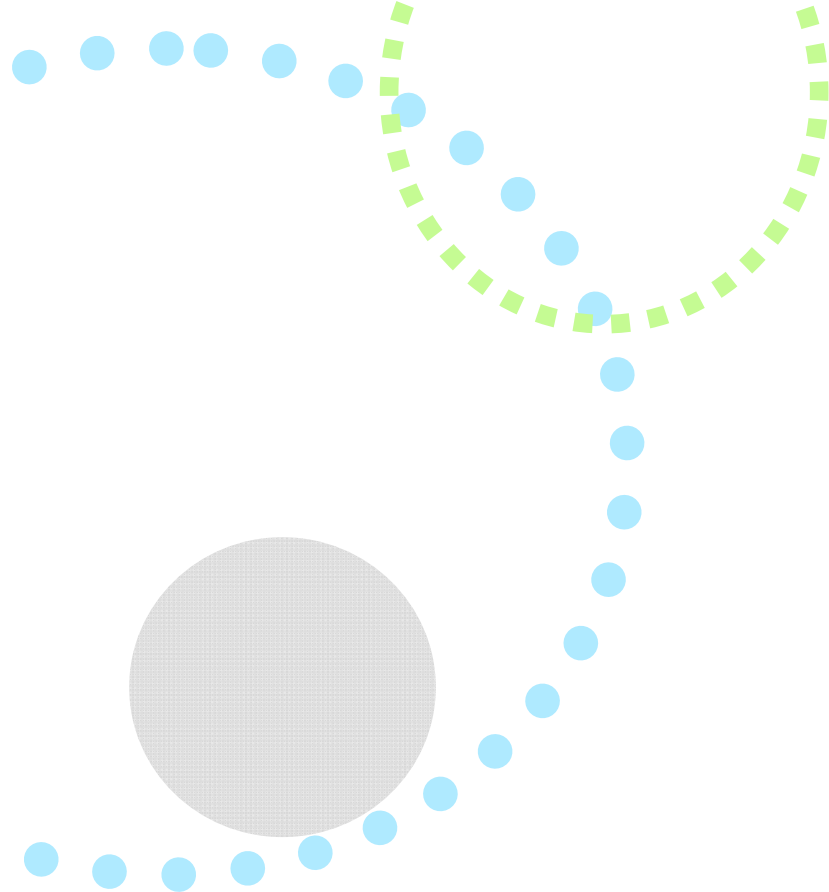
For More Information:

- PVC Info: www.besafenet.com/pvc/about.htm
- Bisphenol A Info: : www.fastcompany.com/magazine/132/the-real-story-on-bpa.html
- Healthy Children's Products and Toys Database: www.healthystuff.org
- Phthalates Info: www.ewg.org/chemindex/term/480
- Less Toxic Baby Care: <http://www.lesstoxicguide.ca/index.asp?fetch=babycare>

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