

Notable Toxins

AP Environmental Science

Lead

- Where Found In Environment
 - Old pipes, paint and old gasoline. Batteries
- Health Impacts
 - Neurotoxin → brain damage and kidney problems
- Important Info
 - Babies and toddlers can ingest paint chips in old houses and from toys

Mercury

- Where Found In Environment
 - Coal burned → mercury
airborn → rain → rivers → ocean → bioaccumulation & biomagnification → tuna and swordfish → humans
- Health Impacts
 - Same as lead
- Important Info
 - Minimata Bay, Japan → thousands died from Mercury dumped in Bay

Asbestos

- Where Found In Environment
 - Insulation in older buildings
- Health Impacts
 - Lung Cancer (Mesothelioma) and scarring of the lungs (Asbestiosis)

PBDE

- Where Found In Environment
 - Fire-retardant in computers, cars, TVs, plastics, pillows, mattresses etc.
- Health Impacts
 - Possible endocrine disruptor
- Important Info
 - Has been found in human breast milk

DDT

- Where Found In Environment
 - Top predatory birds from persistent DDT/DDE
- Health Impacts
 - Birds' eggs crack
- Important Info
 - Banned in the U.S.
 - One of the dirty dozen

PCB

- Where Found In Environment
 - Industrial chemical. Now banned, but persists a long time (POP) Arctic circle
- Health Impacts
 - Neurotoxin. Same as lead
- Important Info
 - Same as DDT

Bisphenol-A (BPA)

- Where Found In Environment
 - Plastics, lining of food cans, receipt tape.
- Health Impacts
 - Probable endocrine disruptor
- Important Info
 - CA law now bans it in baby products

Cadmium

- Where Found In Environment
 - Rechargable batteries
- Health Impacts
 - Neurotoxin-same as lead
- Important Info
 - Can leak from batteries in a landfill into groundwater below the landfill.

Aldicarb

- Where Found In Environment
 - Pesticide used on crops
- Health Impacts
 - Possible teratogen
 - Causes respiratory problems, nausea and headaches
- Important Info
 - One of the most toxic pesticides legal in the U.S.

Atrazine

- Where Found In Environment
 - Fertilizer
- Health Impacts
 - Endocrine disruptor
 - Causes amphibians to become hermaphrodites or sexually impaired.
- Important Info
 - Very common. Manufacturer says no problem

Phthalates

- Where found in the Environment?
 - Soft plastic children's toys and many cosmetics
- Health Impacts
 - Hormone-disrupting chemical. Birth defects, breast cancer
- Important Info
 - Banned in Europe, but remains widespread in US.
 - Banned in CA and WA in children's toys