



## Hidden Pesticides in Your Home

### How to Protect Your Children

Many building & household products contain pesticides. Some pesticides have been shown to cause cancer in humans, especially when people are exposed at high levels. Children are at increased risk for pesticide poisoning because of their smaller size & because pesticides may be stored improperly or applied to surfaces that are accessed easily by children (National Cancer Institute: [www.cancer.gov](http://www.cancer.gov)).



### Culprits:

- Antibacterial Soaps & Disinfectants
- Mothballs
- Synthetic Carpets
- Wall & Shelf Paper
- Paint



### Alternatives:

- Regular Soap
- Lavender Sachets
- Untreated Hardwood
- Butcher Paper
- Non-Vinyl Wallpaper
- No-VOC Paint

PRODUCTS <sup>1</sup>	PROBLEMS	SAFER ALTERNATIVES
Anti-bacterial Soaps & Disinfectants	May contain up to 275 different active ingredients classified by EPA as pesticides. Frequent use of antibacterial soap selects for more resistant bacteria.	Teach your children to thoroughly and frequently wash their hands with regular soap.
Mothballs	Can cause serious health problems if ingested or by inhaling the fumes. 1,4-Dichlorobenzene, found in mothballs, may be reasonably anticipated to be a carcinogen. <sup>2</sup>	Always keep mothballs out of reach of children. Use cedar balls or lavender sachets to ward off moths & to freshen your home, as well!
Synthetic Carpets	May contain anti-mildew pesticides, and toxic adhesives. Many chemicals used on carpets are volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which may cause carcinogens to be released into the air.	Choose alternative flooring: ceramic tiles, untreated hardwood, cotton or hemp rugs (with non-toxic adhesive & non-plastic backing).
Shelf Paper	Often contains pesticides to deter insects from living in the cupboards.	Line shelves with butcher paper instead of storing dishes in direct contact with pesticides.
Wallpaper	Most wallpaper is vinyl and may contain fungicides to prevent rotting; both chemical treatments and the vinyl may emit VOCs into the air.	Choose paper, straw, or bamboo wallpaper & a nontoxic paste of 1 cup flour (wheat/corn/rice), 3 teaspoons alum, water, & 10 drops of clove oil (natural preservative).
Paint	Several brands contain pesticides (used to prevent mildew) and emit VOCs. Test paint chips from walls & windows for lead.	Choose "No-VOC" or natural milk paints. Keep children away from chipping and peeling paint. Clean sills with a damp rag.

1. Parts of the chart originated from Children's Health & the Environment Coalition : [www.healthychild.org](http://www.healthychild.org).

2. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) : [www.atsdr.cdc.gov](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov).