



Stop Playing With Poison: Get Arsenic Out of our Yards and Playgrounds.

Children in our state are needlessly being exposed to a toxic, cancer causing substance - arsenic. Nearly all of the pressure-treated wood used in playgrounds is injected with a deadly pesticide called chromated copper arsenate (CCA) to kill insects and prevent rot. This CCA wood is also used frequently for decks, porches, stadium seats, and picnic tables.

Arsenic is a known carcinogen, linked to skin, bladder, and lung cancers. Even very low levels of arsenic may change hormone functions, which can affect growth and development. Children are exposed to this chemical by playing on or touching CCA-treated wood. When exposed to rain and weather, arsenic leaches to the surface of the wood. When a child plays on a playground or deck made of treated wood, she gets the arsenic onto her skin, and may accidentally ingest the arsenic during normal hand-to-mouth contact.

- **It has been estimated that a child will ingest 24 to 630 micrograms of arsenic from playing once on a CCA-treated structure.**
- **There is no amount of arsenic known to be safe for a child to ingest.**
- **Countries such as Vietnam, Indonesia, Switzerland, Denmark, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and Germany have all either banned or severely restricted the use of arsenic-treated wood.**
- **Zoos have banned the use of arsenic-treated wood due to concerns about acute toxicity threats to the exposed animals.**



Children's bodies are growing and are generally more sensitive than adults' bodies. They should not be needlessly exposed to toxic and cancer-causing substances.

The Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow is a coalition of citizen organizations, health professionals and educators working to protect child health. To that end, we are working to put a stop to the use of arsenic-treated wood in our playgrounds, yards, parks and other places where our children live and play. To find out more about what you can do, see reverse side.

Take Action to Get Arsenic Out of Our Yards and Playgrounds!

You can help protect our children!

The Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow wants to help you make your community a healthy place in which to grow up. We have the tools that can help you get started.



You can start today by:

- **Finding out where this wood is being used by children.** Almost all pressure treated wood is treated with arsenic. If the wood is not labeled or otherwise identifiable, there are laboratory tests available to determine whether certain wood is in fact treated with arsenic.
- **Reducing immediate danger by sealing arsenic-treated wood.** In the short term, sealing CCA-treated wood using any number of products – including latex paint – on a regular basis can reduce exposure to the leaching arsenic.
- **Asking for safe alternatives.** Where possible, ask for the replacement of existing structures with less toxic wood or non-wood alternatives. These alternatives include metal, sustainably logged wood, and recycled plastics
- **Talking to your local school or government officials.** We can provide you with the information and support you need to ask your local governments and/or school districts to agree to stop purchasing arsenic-treated wood
- **Joining us in asking Governor Swift to ban the sale of arsenic-treated wood in Massachusetts.** Write to Governor Swift today.

Take action today! For more information on **how you can help protect our children** from needless exposure to arsenic, contact Clean Water Fund at 617-338-8131.

The **Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow** is a coalition of citizen organizations, health professionals and educators formed to establish new policies to prevent harm from toxic hazards.

www.healthytomorrow.org