

Pets and Toxics

Something every pet owner should know...

Many pet products and pesticides contain chemicals that are known to cause cancer, premature aging and nerve damage.



Why are pets at risk?

TOXIC CHEMICALS: Pets can ingest tiny amounts of toxic chemicals over a number of years that accumulate and concentrate heavy metals and toxic chemicals in their bodies. These toxins increase the risk of cancer and other diseases and may eventually cause irreversible damage to your pet's organs.

PESTICIDES: Pesticides are designed to be nerve toxins. The level of pesticide in flea bombs and flea collars may have harmful consequences for pets. Pets can absorb these poisons from lawns and garden products too.



For more information, contact us:
info@oregontoxics.org
or visit our dedicated web page
www.ProtectYourPets.org

Toxics to avoid!

Many common pet products contain dangerous levels of these heavy metals and poisons.

Lead...is a known carcinogen, and can cause damage to the nervous system and brain. It's often found in products containing vinyl and other plastics, and products made with bright colors or dark pigments.

Chromium...is a suspected carcinogen. It can damage the endocrine system and has been linked to cancer of bladder, lungs and kidneys.

Cadmium...harms the joints, kidneys and lungs.

Pesticides...harmful levels of residues are commonly found in and around the home. Pesticides are potent nerve toxins and can cause cancer. They can also damage reproductive organs.



Generous sponsorship provided by Northwest Challenge, long-time supporters of the work of Oregon Toxics Alliance!
For information: www.northwestchallenge.com



What You Can Do to Protect Your Pets...

JOIN the Oregon Toxics Alliance effort to:

- Advocate for consumer protections for safer products for kids and pets, including toys and food.
- Speak out for pesticide-free parks, schools, and communities.

See reverse for more details...

Avoid:

- **Flame retardants:** Flame retardants (PBDEs) are added to some plastics, electrical and electronic equipment, upholstered furniture, non-clothing textiles and foam products. The main sources for your pet are indoor air and dust. Studies show effects on behavioral and nervous system development, as well as on the liver and thyroid. Whenever possible choose pet bedding, furniture, carpet padding, mattresses and futons that are free of PBDEs.

- **Phthalates:** This plastic compound is frequently found in toys and food dishes. A suspected carcinogen, phthalates can cause damage to the reproductive system. Frequently found in products containing vinyl. NOTE: Never heat or store food in plastic containers.

- **Flea control products:** Organophosphates and carbamates are the most common pesticides used in flea control. They are rapidly absorbed through the skin, lungs, G.I. tract and mucous membranes. Known to cause nerve damage, hormone disruption and cancer. High exposure can cause seizures and may be lethal.

- **Clumping cat litter:** Almost all brands contain silica that can cause lesions on the lungs and throat; cats can ingest litter that sticks to their feet or fur after using the litter box, and it can accumulate in their stomachs; clumping litter also contains sodium bentonite, which can swell up to 15 times its size and cause problems if it is ingested by a cat.

- **Teflon:** Used in stain-proofed beds. Dogs were found to have 2.4 higher levels of Teflon in their bodies than humans. Exposure can cause respiratory problems and may lead to cancer.



Oregon Toxics Alliance works for all Oregonians to expose root causes of toxic pollution and help communities find solutions that protect human, animal and environmental health. Our work depends on the generosity of our members and people like you around Oregon.

Please take a moment to visit our web site and join!

Visit our dedicated web page:
www.ProtectYourPets.org

Alternatives:

- Use organic foods, treats and shampoos when possible.
- Use pine or wheat litter, or litter made of various grain hulls; wheat litters are a good alternative for litter that clumps; look for other plant-based litters.
- Find recycled and non-toxic toys and bedding.
- Use glass or ceramic food and water bowls that do not leach chemicals.
- Several furniture manufacturers now produce furniture, carpet padding and futons that are free of PBDE flame retardants. Some fibers such as wool are naturally flame-retardant. Ask the retailer about PBDEs before any new purchase.
- Flea treatment and prevention tips...Diatomaceous earth (D.E.) comes from algae and is the only animal-safe pesticide; keep home clean; practice proper and regular grooming; feed pet proper food; shampoo with organic soap and use a lemon rinse to keep fleas at bay. Natural topical preparations made from essential oils are available that can be sprayed on pets as a repellent.

Flea control...

Flea products contain pesticides, which are poisons, and also contain toxic ingredients that are not disclosed to consumers or veterinarians. The EPA is intensifying its evaluation of "spot-on" pesticide products for flea and tick control due to increases in reported undesirable reactions in pets. Reactions range from skin irritation to more serious effects such as seizures and, in some cases, death of the pet. Government studies indicate that, contrary to manufacturer's claims, flea products can be absorbed into the skin of pets and their owners. Their effectiveness is also being scrutinized.

Dangers: "Spot-on" flea-killers are effective, but the safety record of long-term use of dangerous synthetic chemicals is troubling. Our pets have become test subjects in a large experiment. However, there are safer, effective alternatives to toxic products for flea control!

Solutions: Improving your dog or cat's health is the first line of defense that can include better nutrition, supplements, garlic and vitamin B complex. Some people have success with natural topical preparations. Products are available that use essential oils of cedar, tea tree, citronella, eucalyptus and pennyroyal (the last 2 are toxic to cats).