



Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

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New Consumer Guides to Safe Plastics and Children's Products Now Released

Minneapolis, MN- New science on the chemical bisphenol A (BPA), found in many plastic and children's products, links elevated BPA concentrations to an increased risk for heart disease, diabetes and liver abnormalities. This compelling new science has made the search for safe plastic products increasingly important, but good information for consumers is hard to find.

To help eliminate confusion about plastics and synthetic chemicals, the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP) and the public health coalition Healthy Legacy have teamed up to provide consumers with two new resources to make smarter choices when shopping.

"Ultimately, consumers shouldn't need these safe product resources," said Kathleen Schuler, Senior Policy Analyst at IATP, co-director of Healthy Legacy, and author of the publications. "But as we are eagerly anticipating government regulation of these toxic chemicals, we wanted to provide consumers with a way to make smart and safe choices for their families."

Two publications released this week:

- *The Smart Plastics Guide:* This updated version of IATP's popular guide includes the latest science and marketplace developments to help consumers make wise choices about the types of plastics they use. The guide includes information on all seven labels for plastic products, health and environmental risks of chemicals used in plastics, the latest on green chemistry and 10 tips for safer use of plastics in storing food.
- *A Guide to Safe Children's Products:* This new guide helps parents learn about synthetic chemicals commonly used in children's products (and how to avoid them), and provides a list of safer products. A full-page insert details safe children's products ranging from baby bottles, utensils, pacifiers, teething rings and more. A wallet-size cut-out makes it easy for parents to take this handy information on-the-go!

“As states and the federal government start to take the lead on regulating toxic chemicals in consumer products, it is our hope that these guides will become obsolete,” said Schuler. “In the meantime, hopefully concerned consumers can rest a little easier.”

Both resources can be found at www.healthobservatory.org and www.healthlegacy.org.

Healthy Legacy is a Minnesota based public health coalition dedicated to safe products, made safely. The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP), a founding member of Healthy Legacy, works locally and globally at the intersection of policy and practice to ensure fair and sustainable food, farm and trade systems.