

CEH Finds 63 Sock Brands with High Levels of BPA

The Center for Environmental Health (CEH) sent legal notices to nine companies today after extensive testing showed their socks made for babies, children, and adults could expose someone to up to 31 times the safe limit of the chemical BPA, according to California law. In total, CEH has initiated litigation with 63 socks brands, including Adidas, Champion, GAP, Hanes, New Balance, and Reebok.

“Studies have shown that BPA can be absorbed through your skin and end up in the bloodstream after handling receipt paper for seconds or a few minutes at a time,” said **Dr. Jimena Díaz Leiva, Science Director at CEH**. “Socks are worn for hours at a time, so it is concerning to be finding such high levels of BPA, particularly in those made for babies and children.”

Add Your Name: Tell Fashion CEOs to Take the BPA Out of Socks

Research has shown that early life exposure to hormone-disrupting chemicals like BPA can increase the risk of infants developing a range of diseases during childhood and later in adulthood. Exposure to these chemicals during critical periods of development can increase the risk of adverse health outcomes (Braun 2016).

“BPA was originally designed as an estrogen,” said **Tyrone Hayes, Professor of Integrative Biology at University of California, Berkeley**. “Given the many adverse effects of exogenous estrogenic compounds, BPA should not be in our clothing, food packaging, or anything else that humans (or any animal for that matter) will come in contact with.”

After months of testing, CEH sent legal notices to 54 companies whose socks had high levels of BPA in September. Already some companies are responding and working collaboratively with CEH to begin the process of removing BPA from their products.

Kaya Allan Sugerman, Illegal Toxic Threats Program Director at CEH said: “CEH uses California’s Proposition 65 as a tool to move companies to eliminate toxic chemicals from their products, and Prop 65 lists BPA as a chemical that harms the reproductive system. BPA is not a necessary ingredient in socks and manufacturers must immediately remove it.”

“BPA comes from Big Oil and the petrochemical industry,” said **Michael Green, CEO of CEH**. “Why are we digging up 500 million year old plants and animals, turning them into toxic chemicals, and adding them in our socks? Surely companies can make clothing like

socks without toxic BPA.”



Brands with High Levels of BPA:

Adidas

Adrienne Vittadini

Aeropostale

Angel of Mine

Apara

Asics

Bare Hugs

BCBGeneration

Betsey Johnson

Bon Domir

Capelli New York

Champion

Charlotte

Christian Siriano

Danbar Global Stars & Dreamers

Danskin

Dr. Scholl's

Elite Collection

Ellen Tracy

ENVY

FILA

Forever 21

Fruit of the Loom

Gaiam

Gap

G.H. Bass & Co.

Halston

Hanes

Hurley

Jefferies Socks

Jessica Simpson

Juicy Couture

K-Swiss

Legale

Lucky Brand

Marvel

MeMoi

New Balance

Nickelodeon
No Boundaries
PGA Tour
Pickle & Dot
Polo Ralph Lauren
Puma
Rampage
RBX
Reebok
Rene Rofe
Rising Star
Skechers
So Dorable
Sole Sayings
Spalding
Stepping Stones
Steve Madden
Tek Gear
Tic Tac Toe
Timberland
Tommy Hilfiger
TY
Wonder Nation
Xhilaration
5 Style

