



SILENT SPRING INSTITUTE

Researching the Environment and Women's Health

→ SAFER CHEMICALS PROGRAM



Safer Chemicals, Safer Families

Support the research to uncover breast cancer-causing
chemicals in our everyday environments.



From our body lotions, to our stain-resistant couches, to our vinyl floors, and even food packaging, manufacturers have woven synthetic chemicals into the fabric of our modern lives. The convenience of these products, however, comes with a burden — to know which ones contain harmful, cancer-causing ingredients so that we keep them out of our pantries, bathrooms, living rooms, and closets.

This burden is too heavy for any one of us to bear, and we shouldn't have to. Together, we can shift this burden to companies that create the products we rely on, and to the federal agencies that regulate chemicals in everyday items.

Imagine a future where manufacturers use safer chemicals that don't make us sick and where federal agencies hold companies to standards that protect our bodies instead of their profits.

When we at Silent Spring Institute provide decision-makers with the science linking specific chemicals with breast cancer, we give them the tools to build this safer future for us all.

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in the U.S. today.

Did you know that patients with high-risk inherited BRCA1 and BRCA2 gene mutations account for only 5 to 10 percent of breast cancer cases each year? A startling **80 percent of women diagnosed with breast cancer today are the first members of their families to develop the disease.** And, the cost of treating breast cancer is unsustainable: at last count, the U.S. healthcare system spent \$29.8 billion per year on breast cancer care alone.

We at Silent Spring Institute know that many chemicals in the products we use every day are linked to breast cancer. And, we know how difficult it is to avoid them all. Consider...

- ➔ You sauté some vegetables for dinner. *(Did you wash off all the pesticides? Did you make sure you weren't using a coated, nonstick pan?)*
- ➔ You sit on your couch. *(Did you buy one made without stain-resistant fabric?)*
- ➔ You apply body lotion after a shower. *(Did you use paraben-free lotion?)*

You see the pattern. We are regularly exposed to hundreds of harmful synthetic chemicals in the products we buy, use, and live with every day. Even if we're careful, we can't avoid all of these chemicals.

And, you shouldn't need a PhD to avoid the chemicals that make us sick.



We need Safer Chemicals. Now.

This need is urgent for everyone. Especially women.

DID YOU KNOW _____



In people under 50, the rate of breast cancer in women is **six times** the rate of **any** specific cancer in men.



A 2020 study by Silent Spring Institute found that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency dismissed evidence linking **19 pesticide chemicals** with mammary tumors.



Silent Spring scientists have identified more than **900 chemicals** in our everyday environments that are likely to adversely affect the breast.

We need to scrutinize these environmental chemicals now.
The **Safer Chemicals Program** is leading the way.



WHAT WE KNOW _____

Industry prioritizes profits, not women's health. Stronger federal regulations informed by the best-available science can shift the balance.

As you know, major manufacturers have fiduciary responsibilities to their shareholders. Profit is king. **To remain profitable and competitive, manufacturers continuously develop new chemicals to use in new products without testing them for safety, especially for their effects on the breast.**

Industry is not looking out for your health, and government agencies are using outdated methods to evaluate chemicals for safety and approve their use in products.

We need better tools now to predict which chemicals are likely to cause breast cancer so we can keep them out of products. **We can't stand by and wait years to know whether a chemical being used right now causes breast cancer.**

With your support of Silent Spring's **Safer Chemicals Program**, industry leaders will no longer be able to say:

"We didn't know that this chemical could cause breast cancer."

Current chemical safety tests don't consider the many different ways that chemicals can cause breast cancer.

Because hormones, such as estrogen, have been shown to influence breast cancer risk, our research at Silent Spring is focused on a particular group of chemicals called endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs). These chemicals mimic or interfere with the body's natural system of hormones. They are also widespread in consumer products, including personal care items, furniture, food packaging, and building materials.

Over the years, our research has shown that EDCs migrate out of products, accumulate in indoor air and dust, and enter our bodies, raising serious health concerns.



“Industry’s scientific approach to testing harmful chemicals, and the federal regulations that monitor this research, are dangerously old-fashioned and outdated. And, they’re notoriously biased against female bodies, often not testing for a given chemical’s effect on breast tissue. Their approaches haven’t changed much since the 1950s.”

RUTHANN RUDEL
DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH
SILENT SPRING INSTITUTE

Safer Chemicals mean safer women and families.

“Silent Spring Institute is the only organization focused specifically on the effects of toxic chemicals on the breast,” says Ruthann Rudel, Silent Spring’s Director of Research. “Traditional chemical safety testing overlooks how chemicals affect the breast. We must examine chemicals for their effects on breast density, breast development, and lactation, which all play a role in breast cancer risk.”

THE METHOD

Our Safer Chemicals Program will ...

- map the many ways that chemicals can cause a normal breast cell to become cancerous
- predict which chemicals are most likely to cause breast cancer
- and develop a growing list of chemicals that do cause breast cancer.

THE OUTCOMES

Your gift will ...

- power the research testing a chemical’s ability to cause breast cancer
- help us give industry the tools to make safer products
- support us in strengthening how EPA regulates chemicals
- reduce the incidence of breast cancer
- save women’s lives
- and ensure a much safer future for you and your family.

We can’t do this without you.

We are relying 100% on the generosity of individuals like you to power the Safer Chemicals Program.

Industry conducts science for its own benefit. We are conducting this science to protect **you**.



A photograph of a young child with dark skin and curly hair, wearing a light blue long-sleeved jumpsuit, crawling on a light-colored sofa. The child is looking towards the camera with a smile. The sofa has several cushions, some with patterned covers. The background is a soft, out-of-focus indoor setting.

Our children deserve a healthier future.

Please imagine this better tomorrow:

A baby is crawling on the floor, stopping to stuff her hands into her mouth. Her small body is ill-prepared to fend off carcinogens. And, the dust on the floor is no longer laden with toxic chemicals — thanks to **Safer Chemicals**. *So this baby is safer.*

A child is somersaulting across the couch cushions, breathing deeply as she exerts herself. Her immune system is not yet as strong as it will be one day. And, the dust disturbed from the couch fabric no longer contains toxic flame retardants — thanks to **Safer Chemicals**. *So this child is safer.*

A teenager is playing soccer in the rain, bundled up against the cold and damp. Her growing body is vulnerable to endocrine disrupting chemicals that mimic estrogen and are associated with increased breast cancer risk. And, her rain gear no longer contains toxic waterproof chemicals — thanks to **Safer Chemicals**. *So this girl is safer.*

A young woman is inspecting the construction of her first home, admiring the infrastructure. Her reproductive system is vulnerable to toxic chemicals. And, the house's new siding and pipes no longer contain ingredients such as phthalates — thanks to **Safer Chemicals**. *So this future mom is safer.*

An older woman is applying lotion, carefully massaging it in. Her aging skin is vulnerable to toxic chemicals. And, the lotion no longer contains harmful preservatives or parabens — thanks to **Safer Chemicals**. *So this woman is safer.*

These babies, children, and women need someone to create this future we all can be proud of. *Someone like you.*

Together with you, we are a voice of reason for women's health.
Together with you, we are the beating heart of breast cancer prevention.
Together with you, we are studying safer chemicals for a safer tomorrow.

PLEASE JOIN US IN THIS FIGHT FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH.

“Some groups don’t want this info to come out. I admire how **Silent Spring is willing to confront them with powerful boldness** and effort. These strong women are leading the opposition. It’s a little subversive. I really like that. Every little thing they do **holds the hope of preventing cancer.**”



CAROLYN FINE FRIEDMAN
PHILANTHROPIST



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