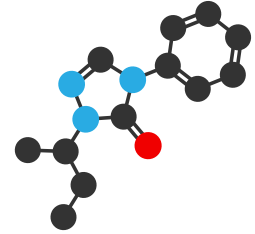


# What you need to know about Phthalates



## WHAT ARE PHTHALATES?

Phthalates are a group of chemicals used to make plastics more flexible, pliable, and less prone to breaking. They are also referred to as plasticizers. Some phthalates can be used as solvents for other materials.



## WHERE ARE PHTHALATES FOUND?

Phthalates are used in hundreds of products, such as vinyl flooring, faux leather, adhesives, detergents, lubricating oils, automotive plastics, raincoats, and personal-care products (soaps, shampoos, hair sprays, and nail polishes). Phthalates are used widely in PVC plastics, which are used to make products such as plastic packaging film and sheets, garden hoses, inflatable toys, blood-storage containers, medical tubing, and some children's toys.



## HOW ARE PEOPLE EXPOSED TO PHTHALATES?

People are exposed to phthalates by eating and drinking foods that have been in contact with containers and products containing phthalates. To a lesser extent exposure can occur from breathing in air that contains phthalate vapors or dust contaminated with phthalate particles. If phthalates enter a person's body, they are converted into breakdown products (metabolites) that pass through quickly in urine.



## DO PHTHALATES AFFECT PEOPLE'S HEALTH?

Human health effects from exposure to low levels of phthalates are unknown. Some types of phthalates have affected the reproductive system of laboratory animals. Per the CDC, more research is needed to assess the human health effects of exposure to phthalates.



## WHY IS 'PHTHALATE' SO HARD TO SPELL?

Spelling bees are in constant need for challenging new words. By the way, it is hard to pronounce too. (pronounced `\`tha-lat\`` to be precise)

## IS THE USE OF PHTHALATES RESTRICTED OR REGULATED?

The use of phthalates is not restricted, and they are widely found in a variety of everyday products. However, there are certain government and industry organizations that limit the use of certain phthalates, or require labeling for these. Most notably, the following directives limit the use of Phthalates:

### Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA)

A US law that restricts the use of 5 phthalates in children's products (BBP, DBP, DEHP, DIDP, DnOP) in addition to Lead.

### California Proposition 65

A California law that requires labeling if the following 7 phthalates are used: BBP, DBP, DEHP, DIDP, DnHP, DnOP, DiNP. In addition this legislation requires labeling if any of about 900 chemicals are used or found in the product.

### REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals)

A wide-reaching European Union regulation that limits the use of and requires labeling for a multitude of chemicals. 4 phthalates are listed amongst the "Substances of very high concern" (BBP, DBP, DEHP, DIBP) in addition to about 50 other chemicals.

Continuing a practice of environmental stewardship, Nassimi LLC has made a decision to go above and beyond industry or regulatory requirements, and has put a transition plan in place to make all of its faux leather products 21P Phthalate free by 2019. With the desire to continuously improve our product offering in terms of design, performance, as well as environmental impact, we have been diligently working with our supply chain to develop faux leathers that do not make use of 21 Phthalates, without adversely impacting the performance and durability of the material.