

PHTHALATES IN PLASTICS

KNOWING THE FACTS

Phthalates are a group of chemicals used to make plastics, and in particular polyvinyl chloride (PVC), more flexible. They are used in a remarkably wide variety of flexible PVC products found in our homes and businesses. Examples of common applications include medical tubing, inflatables, packaging film and sheets, garden hoses, toys and automotive plastics. Selected for their strong performance and durability, phthalates are the most commonly used plasticizers in the world.¹

In recent years, concerns have been raised over the use of phthalates, giving rise to myths and unfounded speculation. The good news is there have been numerous studies completed on phthalates. The results can help you understand the facts and make the best choice of materials for your needs.



PHTHALATES FACTS

PHTHALATES HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY RESEARCHED

A large amount of research on phthalates has been conducted by universities, government agencies, manufacturers and independent test laboratories.

PHTHALATES DO NOT EASILY MIGRATE

They are often chosen for use because they don't easily migrate out of materials. They are tightly held within the vinyl and have low volatility, so they do not readily evaporate.

¹Source: chemicalsafetyfacts.org

PHTHALATES ARE KNOWN TO BREAK DOWN IN THE HUMAN BODY

Research has shown that after entering the body, phthalate are broken down into metabolites within minutes and pass out quickly in urine.²

PHTHALATE EXPOSURE IS CONSIDERED LOW

Despite the fact that phthalates are used in a wide range of products, human exposure from all sources is considered to be extremely low.²

²Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

PHTHALATES ARE A USEFUL CHOICE FOR HEALTHCARE

Flexible vinyl tubing does not react with most medications, allowing for reliable administration of drugs, while flexible vinyl bags prevent blood contamination and extend shelf life of the blood.³

PHTHALATES ARE REGULATED

Based on earlier studies, a few specific phthalates have been banned for use in toys or other items for sale to children under twelve to reduce risk of overexposure through hand-to-mouth behaviors.

³Source: thisisplastics.com



Learn more about
phthalates at:
ChemicalSafetyFacts.org
AmericanChemistry.com

www.avient.com



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