



Safer Nap Mats

In the spring of 2016, CEH tested 12 nap mats from a variety of manufacturers and retailers for the presence of flame retardant chemicals.

Flame retardant chemicals are not required for any flammability regulation and have not been shown to provide any added fire safety in these products.

We found **no detectable flame retardants** in the following nap mats



Angeles

Community Play Things (FR-Free and PVC-Free)

Creative Colors (Made by Colgate)

Happy Child (FR-Free and PVC-Free Option)

Kaplan (Made by Children's Factory)

Kindermat (Made by Peerless Plastics)

Lakeshore Learning Materials (Made by Children's Factory)

Rest Assured (Made by Marlo Plastics)

School Outfitters (Made by Mahar)

Wesco

We found **high levels of flame retardants** in the following nap mats

ECR 4 Kids (Made by Early Childhood Resources)

Safety First (made by Venture Products LLC)

The Facts



Flame retardants don't stay put inside nap mats

Instead, they escape into the indoor air and get into our dust. Young children, who play on the floor and constantly put their hands in their mouths, have much higher levels of flame retardants than their mothers. Many flame retardant chemicals have been associated with cancer, reproductive problems, obesity, neurodevelopmental problems and more.

Tips

- 1** Don't purchase nap mats that have flame retardants.
- 2** Avoid purchasing second hand nap mats, products that are labeled "Meets Technical Bulletin 117 (TB 117)," or those from discounted websites and retailers, as these are often older products that contain these harmful chemicals.
- 3** In addition to purchasing flame retardant-free nap mats, try to find nap mats made without PVC (vinyl), since vinyl often contains harmful additives. Avoid nap mats that contain antimicrobials, which have not been found to reduce the spread of infection.
- 4** Dust can contain many harmful chemicals, and kids tend to get more dust on their hands than adults. When they put their hands in their mouths, the chemicals can get in their bodies. So it's important to wash your child's hands frequently, especially before eating.