

# Plastic feeding bottle might be harmful for your baby

Saturday, 19 April 2008

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It has been known for some time that scratched and worn polycarbonate feeding bottles will leach this chemical. A report published in the UK in March 2004 showed that polycarbonate bottles leach BPA when used and sterilized. The report was published in the UK in March 2004. It showed that polycarbonate bottles leach BPA when used and sterilized. The report was published in the UK in March 2004. It showed that polycarbonate bottles leach BPA when used and sterilized.

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But some retailers in Canada say that interest in food-related products made with the chemical, particularly those intended for infants and small children, is fast vanishing.

“Consumer demand for BPA products had largely dried up,” said Hillary Marshall, a spokeswoman for the Hudson’s Bay Company. The retailer removed all baby-related products made with plastics that contained the chemical from its 94 department stores and 280 Zellers discount stores this week. It is working on removing other merchandise made with polycarbonates.

Not all consumers are pleased by the actions. Because of Health Canada’s review, London Drugs, which is based in Richmond, British Columbia, began withdrawing merchandise that contained the chemical Jan. 10 and replacing it with alternatives made of other plastics or stainless steel. Wynne Powell, the company’s president, said the last 10 products were taken away this week.

“I had some complaints come to my desk complaining that we were fear-mongering by pulling products,” Mr. Powell said. “The public was not totally on board.”

Asked whether it plans to follow the lead of its Canadian operations in the United States, Wal-Mart said in a statement, “We are working to expand our BPA-free offerings and expect the entire assortment of baby bottles to be BPA-free sometime early next year.”

A difficult question for retailers will be how to handle products, including soft drinks, that are packaged in aluminum or steel cans.

For the last two decades, the interiors of most cans have been coated with an epoxy resin that is made using the chemical to extend the shelf life of the contents and prevent the metal from affecting the flavors of food and drinks.

John M. Rost, the chairman of the North American Metal Packaging Alliance, an industry group, said that there was no evidence that the linings expose humans to significant amounts of the chemical, a position not shared by all scientists. He added that researchers had been unable to develop an alternative lining that performs as well as the current epoxy.

“The epoxy resins are the gold standard right now,” said Dr. Rost, who is a chemist. “The speculation of what’s to be published has led to reactions from retailers that are not based on any actual data from Health Canada. So we are encouraging a release as soon as possible.”

Previously Steven G. Hentges, the executive director of the American Chemistry Council’s polycarbonate group, takes issue with that report’s worries and points to a separate expert panel report published by the United States Department of Health and Human Services last month.

In its 396-page report, which looked only at the impact of B.S.A. on reproduction, the panel said it had “negligible concern” about the chemical’s effect on adult reproductive systems but raised some concerns about its impact on children and pregnant women. Bottle feeding position and frequency:

Babies, who are bottle-fed, especially while they are lying down, get more ear infections than breastfed babies. If you bottle-feed your child, hold his head above the stomach level during feedings. This helps keep the eustachian tubes from being blocked.

If you decide or your doctor recommends that you do not breastfeed for any reason, bottle feeding your baby is a good alternative. You should feed your baby on demand. A newborn usually needs a feeding every 2 to 3 hours in the first month and less frequently as he or she grows older. Each feeding should last no more than 10 to 20 minutes.

The flow rate of formula coming out of the nipple will also change as your baby gets bigger. For the first few months, the flow rate should be one drop per second. You can test this by holding the bottle upside down. Most packages will label the flow rate according to your baby’s age. Plastic vs. Glass:

There are many types of baby bottles and nipples you can buy. It may take several trials with various bottles and nipples before you find the one that works best for your baby. Some babies with heart disease have difficulty feeding from a regular nipple.

Bottles for feeding babies come in many varieties: plastic, glass, disposable. Glass bottles can be used for a long time, but be sure to check the bottle on a regular basis for any chips or cracks that can hurt your baby.

Glass is a safe and clean carrier for breast milk or formula comes with a one-size teat made from rubber and latex. Glass can then be recycled after use and feels wonderful and clean to use for your new baby. Glass bottles are less likely to

hold smells and tastes from previous feeds.

Glass baby bottles were once the norm. For the past few decades, parents have been opting for the more durable plastic bottles that can withstand the heat of modern dishwashers as well as an occasional drop on the floor. The trend is slowly moving back to glass bottles. Over time it was noted that plastic bottles contained hormone-disrupting phthalates to soften the vinyl, which can leach into baby's drink.

Glass bottles are made of tempered glass. Tempered glass is two or more times stronger than normal glass. When broken, it shatters into many small fragments which prevent major injuries. Never use a microwave to heat bottles. Always warm glass bottles gradually; sudden temperature changes can cause it to crack or break. Also, there is no chance of contamination by dangerous chemicals with glass baby bottles.

Plastic bottles are less expensive and come in more shapes and styles. It does not break or chip like glass baby bottles might. Plastic bottles can develop cracks after a while, which may harbor bacteria. Plastic bottles can sometimes harbor odors even after cleaning.

The study showed that plastic bottles heated at high temperatures were likely to leak toxic chemicals into milk that could have a negative impact on babies.

References:

<http://www.nytimes.com>