



Fast Facts about Healthy Schools

- **Over 141 unregulated chemicals were found in the drinking water of 42 U.S. states** along with an additional 120 chemicals that are regulated. Of these 141 unregulated chemicals, **52 have been linked to cancer, 41 to reproductive toxicity, 36 to developmental toxicity, and 16 to immune system damage.**
- Creating products from recycled content rather than virgin materials can result in a **reduction of 27 kinds of air and water pollutants.**
- Electronic waste, such as televisions, computer monitors, computers, cell phones and video game consoles contain flame retardants, lead, mercury, and other chemicals. This type of waste is **growing 2 to 3 times faster than any other waste stream.**
- **Improving air quality has been shown to result in fewer sick days.** Students, faculty and staff spend 85-90% of their day indoors, where the air quality can be **up to 100 times worse than outdoors.**
- One recent study of school districts in California found that **students exposed to daylight progressed 20% faster on math tests and 26% faster on reading tests** than those with little daylight.
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) calculated that **people consume 50 micrograms of BPA** per kilogram of body weight every day over the course of a lifetime. Over 40 studies have found adverse health effects in rats given **less than one hundredth of that amount!**
- Many pesticides take a very long time to break down. They persist indoors for weeks on furniture, toys and other surfaces and can persist for years in household dust. Research indicates that **levels of pesticides in indoor air are often ten times higher** than those measured in outdoor air.
- **Indoor air pollution is often 2-5 times greater than outdoor levels** of air pollution due to a general lack of adequate air filtration and ventilation.
- Of the 85,000 synthetic chemicals in commercial use today, only a small fraction has been individually tested for toxicity on human health. A **wide variety of toxic or hazardous chemicals are routinely used** as ingredients for cleaning products.



Looking for additional information? Check out the [Eco-Healthy Child Care Factsheets](#) developed by the Children's Environmental Health Network.