

THE ROAD to Toxic Clothing

11 of the Worst Chemicals in Clothes Production (named by Greenpeace)



GROWING FIBERS with highly toxic chemical herbicides and fertilizers.

Cotton: most chemically intensive natural fiber, grown with pesticides linked to neurotoxicity & carcinogenicity

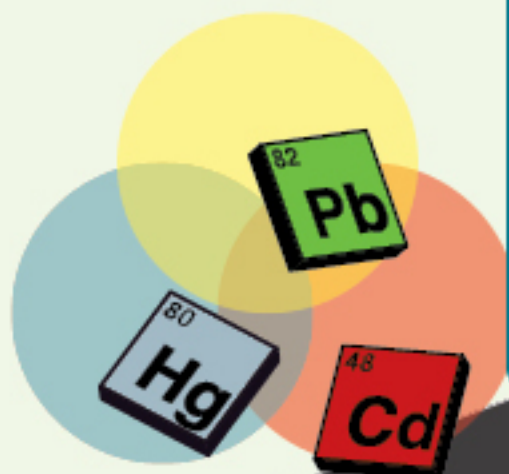
Flax (linen) & hemp: require much fewer chemicals

DYEING TEXTILES with harmful synthetic chemicals.

Azo dyes: banned in EU, break down into "aromatic amines," linked to cancer

Other dyes: contain toxic heavy metals like neurotoxicants lead & mercury

Chlorobenzenes: to manufacture dyes, "mainly affect the liver, thyroid, and central nervous system"



PESTICIDES AND FUNGICIDES

to protect against moths and mold.

Chlorophenols: toxic to human organs, heavily restricted in EU

Chlorobenzenes: bioaccumulate & persist in environment; toxic to nervous system, liver, thyroid; hormone disruptors



CLEANING THE FABRICS

requires chlorinated solvents.

Trichloroethylene: recognized carcinogen, suspected neuro-, respiratory-, kidney-, reproductive-, immuno-, kidney-, developmental-, and endocrine toxicant

Alkylphenols (including nonylphenol ethoxylates): bioaccumulate, persist in environment, toxic to aquatic life, linked to hormone disruption

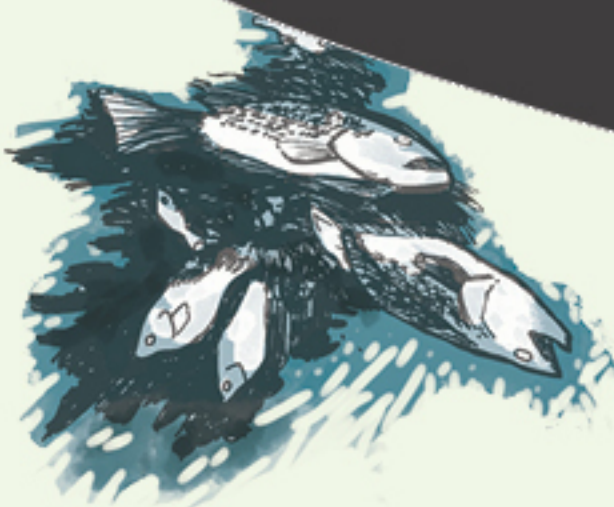


FIREPROOFING

Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs):

suspected hormone disruptors, developmental toxicants, some tightly regulated in EU but not in US

Short-chain chlorinated paraffins: bioaccumulate, persist in environment, toxic to aquatic life



WATER-, STAIN-, AND WRINKLE-RESISTANCE

Perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs): persist in environment; linked to hormone disruption, liver & reproductive toxicity

Formaldehyde: known carcinogen, on clothes advertised as "wrinkle free"