



# The AskREACH Summer-Test: Swimming, gardening and DIY articles

Summer 2022



The Project LIFE AskREACH (No. LIFE16 GIE/DE/000738) is funded by the LIFE Programme of the European Union



# INTRODUCTION

The product test of summer items carried out as part of the EU project "[LIFE AskREACH](#)" shows that many everyday objects still contain harmful chemicals, such as phthalates or heavy metals.

13 partner organizations from different EU countries bought a total of 106 products and had them analyzed by an independent, accredited laboratory. The product categories included swimming, gardening and DIY items.

The analyzed substances are classified as "Substances of Very High Concern" (= SVHCs) according to the European chemicals regulation REACH. SVHCs are proven to be harmful for humans and/or the environment. They can be:

- carcinogenic,
- toxic to reproduction,
- mutagenic,
- endocrine disruptive,
- persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic,
- very persistent and very bioaccumulative, or
- of similar concern

SVHCs can be present in any kind of consumer products, such as toys, kitchen utensils, furniture, clothing or jewelry. In this summer-themed product test, the focus was on gardening, swimming and DIY articles.

# LEGAL BACKGROUND

## REACH

The EU [REACH Regulation](#) on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and restriction of Chemicals (1907/2006/EU) came into effect in 2007. Its aim is to ensure a high level of protection for human health and the environment, as well as the free circulation of chemical substances on the internal market and the enhancement of competitiveness and innovation.

## Candidate list

Certain chemical substances are defined in the REACH Regulation as SVHCs (Substances of Very High Concern). The SVHCs are listed in the "[Candidate List](#)", which is updated



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twice a year and currently contains 224 substances (June 2022). These substances are candidates for the authorisation process under REACH, i.e. their use might be limited to certain applications. In addition, REACH stipulates that these chemicals should progressively be replaced by suitable alternative substances or technologies where economically and technically viable.

### Article 33

[Article 33](#) of REACH states that a manufacturer or seller is obliged to, on request, inform a consumer if a given article contains SVHC substances. This obligation applies as soon as at least one SVHC is present at a concentration of more than 0.1% of the total mass of that article. The information must be made available within 45 days and must include at least the name of the SVHC substance.

Article 33 applies to most solid objects such as clothing, furniture, toys or electronics offered for consumer use. In the case of food, medicines and "non-solid" articles such as cosmetics, cleansing agents, paints, or powders, the obligation to provide information applies only to the packaging.

## THE ASKREACH PROJECT AND THE SCAN4CHEM APP

LIFE AskREACH is a five-year project funded by the EU LIFE programme. Under the coordination of the German Environment Agency, 20 partner organisations in 13 EU member states are cooperating to make the REACH consumer rights more widely known.

As part of the project, a smartphone app (named "[Scan4Chem](#)" in most countries) allows consumers to scan the barcodes of articles to see if they contain SVHCs or to send REACH consumer requests directly to companies.

We also work with companies to make it easier for them to respond to SVHC requests. The project offers a [database](#) where companies can upload their article information so that they will not have to answer consumer requests. The project also facilitates communication along the supply chain for companies. The Scan4Chem app can be downloaded for free in app stores.



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# PARTNER ORGANISATIONS PARTICIPATING IN THE TESTING ACTION

Name of Organisation	Country
BUND – Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland e.V. – Friends of the Earth Germany	Germany
LIST – Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology	Luxembourg
The Danish Environmental Protection Agency	Denmark
BEF-LV – Baltijas Vides Forums	Latvia
GLOBAL 2000 – Friends of the Earth Austria	Austria
Fundacja Kupuj Odpowiedzialnie (Buy Responsibility Foundation)	Poland
Amika – Toxics and Waste Programme	Czech Republic
Zelena akcija – Friends of the Earth Croatia	Croatia
ZERO – Association for the Sustainability of the Earth System	Portugal
NOA – National Observatory of Athens	Greece
INERIS – Institut National de l'Environnement Industriel et des Risques	France
Swedish Consumers' Association / Sveriges Konsumenter	Sweden
Magyar Természetvédők Szövetsége – Friends of the Earth Hungary	Hungary



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# ANALYZED SUBSTANCES

Substance/substance group	Substances included
Phthalates	BBP; DBP; DEHP; DIBP; DIHP; DHNUP; DMEP; DPENP; DiPP; PiPP; DPP; DnHP; DCHP; DHxP; DIHxP; DPP; 1,2-Benzenedicarboxylic acid, di-C6-10 alkyl esters, 1,2-Benzenedicarboxylic acid, mixed decyl and hexyl and octyl di esters
Chlorinated Paraffins	SCCPs; MCCPs
Alkylphenols	Octylphenols; Nonylphenols; TNPP
PAH (Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons)	Benzo (a) anthracene; Benzo (a) pyrene; Chrysene; Benzo (k) fluoranthene
Heavy metals	Lead; Cadmium
ADCA	ADCA
Formamides	Formamide; N,N-dimethylformamide
Flame retardants	DecaBDE; TCEP; HBCDD; TXP
Siloxanes	D4; D5; D6
UV stabilizers	2-benzotriazol-2-yl-4,6-di-tert-butylphenol (UV-320); 2-(2H-benzotriazol-2-yl)-4,6-ditertpentylphenol (UV-328); 2-(2H-benzotriazol-2-yl)-4-(tert-butyl)-6-(sec-butyl)phenol (UV-350); 2,4-di-tert-butyl-6-(5-chlorobenzotriazol-2-yl)phenol (UV-327)
Bisphenols	Bisphenol A

## Phthalates

Phthalates are plasticizers used in plastics such as PVC to make them soft and flexible. Phthalates can affect our biological system like hormones. Some have shown to be harmful to reproduction, such as diethylhexyl phthalate (DEHP), dibutyl phthalate (DBP), benzyl butyl phthalate (BBP), and diisobutyl phthalate (DIBP). In children, for example, they can interfere with sexual maturation. The exposure to hormone-like substances is also suspected to contribute to the declining fertility of men, which has been observed in Europe over decades. For example, the plasticisers mentioned above show anti-androgenic effects such as reduced testosterone production and can have a damaging effect on testicular function. A [study by the Federal Environment Agency in Germany](#) between 2003 and 2006 in which 1,790 children aged between 3 and 14 years were examined, revealed alarming results, particularly for plasticisers. Metabolites of selected plasticisers were found in the urine of almost all children, in some cases at considerable concentrations.



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Phthalates enter the body mainly through food, but also through the air children breathe or through direct contact with the skin. Because children often play on the floor, they take in plasticisers via dust. Infants and young children also frequently put things in their mouth. Through the saliva, phthalates can be absorbed into the body. Countless everyday objects such as clothing, shoes, tools, swimming gear, kitchen and bathroom items or cables can contain phthalates. Since July 2020, products containing the phthalates DEHP, DIBP, BBP and DBP may no longer be placed on the market if the concentration exceeds the limit of 0.1 percent by mass (except for very few exemptions). Other phthalates (DNOP, DINP and DIDP) have been banned for use in children's products.

### **Short- and medium-chain chlorinated paraffins (SCCPs & MCCPs)**

Chlorinated paraffins are divided into long-, medium- and short-chain chlorinated paraffins depending on the chain length. They are used in many different ways, for example as plasticizers in plastics, as binding agents in paints, as flame retardants or as oiling agents for leather and furs.

Chlorinated paraffins are extremely persistent and very toxic to aquatic life. They pollute water, soil and living beings. SCCPs are classified as “possibly carcinogenic to humans” by the International Agency for Research on Cancer. They can also cause kidney, liver and thyroid damage. They accumulate in human fat tissue and are passed on through breast milk. SCCPs are distributed all over the world and can be detected in soil, water, plants, humans and animals. They are regulated by the European regulation for persistent organic pollutants (POP regulation), which sets a limit concentration in articles of 0.15%.

### **Alkylphenols**

Alkylphenols are commonly used in detergents, paints, pesticides and textile processing. They are intended to change the surface properties of a wide variety of products and many of them, such as cleaning agents, often end up directly in the environment and in water. Once there, they are very persistent and can cause serious damage: they are linked to reproductive health problems and act in a similar way to hormones. They are particularly harmful to aquatic life and can even result in fewer male fish developing and affecting their reproductive health.

### **Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH)**

PAHs are formed during the incomplete combustion of biomass (e.g. wood, coal or oil) and are often carcinogenic, mutagenic, toxic to reproduction, persistent in nature and toxic to aquatic organisms. Due to their longevity, they are found almost everywhere these days. In everyday objects, PAHs are often found in bicycle or tool handles, where they can also



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be absorbed through the skin. Plasticizer oils that make plastics more soft and flexible often contain PAHs. PAH contamination is often found among cheap plastic and rubber products in particular.

### **Heavy metals**

Heavy metals are metals with a density higher than 5.0 g/cm<sup>3</sup>. Heavy metals and their compounds usually only occur in traces in nature. On the one hand, many of them are vital for plants, animals and humans, but on the other hand, even minimally higher concentrations can often be harmful to health. Soil around the world is widely contaminated with heavy metals, which in turn can transfer into groundwater. They subsequently accumulate in plants, but also in the skeleton, liver, kidneys and red blood cells of animals and humans.

Some heavy metals and/or their compounds are carcinogenic, harmful to reproduction or have negative effects on our nervous system and organs such as the kidneys and liver. These include, for example, lead and cadmium.

Heavy metals can be found in household items, jewelry and even toys.

### **Azodicarbonamide (ADCA)**

ADCA is used as a blowing agent in the production of foamed plastics. An example of this would be swimming aids. ADCA has been listed as an SVHC in 2012 due to its association with respiratory diseases, allergies and asthma.

### **Formamide**

Formamide and dimethylformamide are very volatile organic compounds and both are toxic to reproduction, meaning they damage our fertility. Formamide can form during the foaming of plastics, which is why it is often found in swimming aids, flip-flops or yoga mats.

### **Flame retardants**

Flame retardants have been added to a large number of products since the 1970s. They are most commonly found in furniture, electronic products, construction and building materials, and in vehicles. They are intended to reduce the flammability of products. Brominated and chlorinated flame retardants or organophosphorus compounds are often used.

However, it has long been known that many flame retardants are poorly degradable, accumulate in the environment and are toxic to humans and the environment. They are



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now commonly detected both in the environment as well as in humans and animals. Various studies show a link between brominated flame retardants and thyroid cancer. Due to their negative effects on humans and the environment, some flame retardants have not only been classified as SVHCs, but also classified as persistent organic pollutants (POPs) under the POP Regulation.

### **Siloxanes**

The siloxanes D4 (Octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane), D5 (Decamethylcyclopentasiloxane) and D6 (Dodecamethylcyclohexasiloxane) are all poorly degradable in nature, accumulate in living organisms and have toxic effects there. D4 is also suspected to affect fertility. Siloxanes are used to manufacture silicones, which is why they can for instance be found in swimming caps or swimming goggles made of silicone.

### **UV stabilizers**

Benzotriazole phenols are used as UV stabilizers in plastics, surfaces, cosmetics and sunscreens. They also barely degrade in nature and accumulate in the environment and in living organisms, on which they then have toxic effects.

### **Bisphenol A (BPA)**

BPA is another harmful substance commonly found in consumer products. It has been used to make hard plastic (polycarbonate) and epoxy resins since the 1960s. BPA has been used in a wide variety of products, from beverage and food cans and water pipes to water bottles and drinking cups to electronic housings and even toys. Due to this widespread use, consumers are exposed to the chemical in many ways, for example through the consumption of food and water.

BPA has been classified as an SVHC since 2018 because of its reproductive and endocrine disrupting properties. Because of its estrogen-like effects, BPA can affect reproductive health and even be harmful to brain development in fetuses and infants.



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# RESULTS

The results show that many swimming, gardening and DIY articles still contain substances of very high concern.

Almost a third of the articles analyzed contained at least one SVHC and 10 articles contained SVHCs above the threshold of 0.1% by weight.

For those 10 products, the duty to inform according to REACH article 33 applies.

6 articles contained plasticizers that have been restricted in consumer articles in July 2020 due to their negative effects on our hormone system. Already in very low concentrations can they be toxic to reproduction. Nevertheless, these plasticizers were found in concentrations of up to 23% by weight, which means that almost a quarter of the article was made from these harmful substances. These high concentrations of plasticizers were found for example in gardening gloves and even in a painting apron for children. Most of these articles would not have been marketable.

In a rubber for filling grooves 4 carcinogenic and persistent polycyclic hydrocarbons have been detected over the limit value. These SVHCs are also additionally restricted according to the EU chemicals regulation REACH. This article was also not fit to be placed on the EU market.



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## Items with SVHC >0.1%

Country	Product	Name of Shop	Brand	Barcode	Price [€]	SVHCs detected
AT	Rubber for filling grooves	Citybaumarkt	HM Müllner	9002488086218	3,49	<b>Benzo (a) anthracene 0,00223%*</b> ; <b>Benzo (a) pyrene 0,00273%*</b> ; <b>Chrysene 0,00217%*</b> ; <b>Benzo (k) fluoranthene 0,00033%*</b> Lead 0,00412% BPA 0,0000442%
AT	Waterproof tape	OBI	TREXTAPE.EU	4053718000752	17,99	<b>2-(2H-Benzotriazol-2-yl)-4,6-di-tert-pentylphenol (UV 328) 0,22%</b>
DE	Plastic cord	HELLWEG	siena Garden/H.Gautzsch GmbH & Co. KG + GARDAMO GmbH & Co. KG	4019111464744	4,99	<b>DIBP 16%</b> <b>MCCPs 12%</b>
DE	Water hose	HELLWEG	BASIC/HELLWEG	2057538600002	7,99	<b>MCCPs 0,48%</b>
DE	Pond liner	OBI	Heissner GmbH	4006873171249	21,99	<b>DEHP 0,15%</b> <b>MCCPs 0,15%</b>
FR	Painting apron children	Truffaut	Aladine	3660016420437	9,79	<b>DEHP 23%</b> Nonylphenols 0,00039%
HR	Pruning shears	BAUHAUS	Brati ritoša d.o.o.	3858884168340	4,77	<b>DINP 3.2 %</b> <b>MCCPs 0.41 %</b>
HU	Gardening gloves	Praktiker	JHK	5997739570278	1,80	<b>DEHP 23%; DBP 0,032%</b> <b>SCCPs 4,4%; MCCPs 3,6%</b>
LU	Water hose	Action Luxembourg	Schou company A/S	5709386979140	5,95	<b>DEHP 2%; DBP 0.25%</b> Benzo (a) anthracene 0,00005%; Benzo (a) pyrene 0,00008%; Chrysene 0,00006%
LV	Flip-flops	Pepco Latvia	Pepco	2200332021867	1,30	<b>DBP 11%</b> <b>SCCPs 8.3%</b> ADCA 0,0063% Formamide 0,0014%

\*substance specific threshold of 0,0001%, above that concentration not allowed in consumer products, only very few exceptions

**red** = not legal in consumer products on EU-market, only few exceptions

**orange** = duty of information (SVHC above 0,1%, no additional restriction for the respective product)

**black** = legally allowed on market and no duty of information due to low concentration



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## All analyzed articles

Country	Product	Name of Shop	Brand	Barcode/ Product identifier	Price [€]	SVHCs detected
AT	Extension cable	BAUHAUS	Voltomat	4024506525184	6,45	BPA 0,0000262%
AT	Pump bag	BAUHAUS	Winbag	5710123103308	10,95	
AT	Working gloves	BAUHAUS	Guide	7391272275757	6,95	
AT	Earplugs noise reducing	BAUHAUS	Bauhaus	4006885487376	6,95	
AT	Rubber for filling grooves	Citybaumarkt	HM Müllner	9002488086218	3,49	<b>Benzo (a) anthracene 0,00223%*;</b> <b>Benzo (a) pyrene 0,00273%*;</b> <b>Chrysene 0,00217%*;</b> <b>Benzo (k) fluoranthene 0,00033%*</b> Lead 0,00412% BPA 0,0000442%
AT	Facemask for dust, FFP2	Citybaumarkt	Wolfcraft	4006885483606	7,79	BPA 0,0000139%
AT	Earplugs noise reducing	Citybaumarkt	Wolfcraft	4006885487208	4,29	
AT	Screwdriver	Citybaumarkt	Witte	4003955608594	6,99	BPA 0,00019%
AT	Swimming noodle	OBI	Happy people	4008332778051	3,99	
AT	Gardening gloves waterproof	OBI	Emil Lux GmbH	4007875813304	6,49	Lead 0,00182%
AT	Water pistol	OBI	Happy people	4008332171401	2,39	
AT	Inflatable mattress	OBI	Intex	6941057408835	5,99	
AT	Waterproof tape	OBI	TREXTAPE.EU	4053718000752	17,99	<b>2-(2H-Benzotriazol-2-yl)-4,6-di-tert-pentylphenol (UV 328) 0,22%</b>
AT	Water hose	OBI	LUX Tools	7133721	1,99	
CZ	Flower pot	OBI	Elho B.V.	8711904480912	5,21	
CZ	Flower pot	OBI	FormPlastic	5907474355948	1,44	
CZ	Shower/pool stickers	OBI	Kleine Wolke	4004478211780	5,16	
CZ	Spray bottle	OBI	EMSA	3167890016645	4,76	
CZ	Rubber boat for children	OBI	Bestway	6942138986297	7,16	
CZ	Garden tools for children	OBI	Emil Lux GmbH	4007873112669	2,75	Nonylphenols 0,0004% MCCPs 0,03% Lead 0,0027%
CZ	Chemical dispenser for pools	OBI	Bestway	404812479965	6,76	
CZ	Children tableware set	Zelezarstvi u Rotta	Orion	8592381158316	7,76	
DE	Shovel	BAUHAUS	Elho B.V.	8711904190255	1,99	
DE	Pond liner	BAUHAUS	OASE GmbH	4010052506449	19,95	
DE	Gardening shoes	BAUHAUS	CAR-MEL shoes	4260166087468	12,95	
DE	Plastic cord	BAUHAUS	Gardol/BAUHAUS	2024798660992	3,99	
DE	Gardening gloves	BAUHAUS	Gardol/BAUHAUS	4024506616639	8,99	
DE	Swimming aid	Decathlon	Nabajji	(01)03583787984161(21)	8,40	
DE	Paddling pool	Depot	Depot	4051281535015	15,99	
DE	Water hose	HELLWEG	Wingart/HELLWEG	2092998900002	9,99	
DE	Plastic cord	HELLWEG	siena Garden/H.Gautzsch GmbH & Co. KG + GARDAMO GmbH & Co. KG	4019111464744	4,99	<b>DIBP 16%</b> <b>MCCPs 12%</b>
DE	Water hose	HELLWEG	BASIC/HELLWEG	2057538600002	7,99	<b>MCCPs 0,48%</b>

\*substance specific threshold of 0,0001%, above that concentration not allowed in consumer products, only few exceptions

red = not legal in consumer products on EU-market, only few exceptions

orange = duty of information (SVHC above 0,1%, no additional restriction for the respective product)

black = legally allowed on market and no duty of information due to low concentration



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Country	Product	Name of Shop	Brand	Barcode/ Product identifier	Price [€]	SVHCs detected
DE	Paddling pool	KIK	Happy people	1140040003	3,99	
DE	Pond liner	OBI	Heissner GmbH	4006873171249	21,99	<b>DEHP 0,15%</b> <b>MCCPs 0,15%</b>
DE	Gardening gloves	OBI	Emil Lux GmbH	4007875814400	2,99	Nonylphenol 0,00047%
DE	Swimming aid	TEDI	TEDI	DNP 296 94126001231000000500 121	2,00	
DK	Gardening gloves	byghjemme.dk	Gardena	5706323236267	6,72	Phenanthrene 0,00003% Pyrene 0,00002%
DK	Toy water pump	Flying Tiger Copenhagen	Flying tiger	200030392117	1,00	Phenanthrene 0,00003%
DK	Flat nose pliers	Panduro	Panduro	7320185124418	9,40	Phenanthrene 0,00003%
DK	Paddling pool	Proshop	Intex	6941057459240	10,21	
DK	Gardening shoes	Sport24	Cruz	5715182830370	13,44	
DK	Kneeling pad	Stark	OX-ON	5701952290703	11,96	
FR	Gardening shoes	GAMM VERT	Blackfox (AJS SAS)	3414903520249	13,95	
FR	Toy water pump	Truffaut	Bestway	3760275212061	4,99	N,N-dimethylformamide 0,00059%
FR	Household gloves children	Truffaut	Rostaing	3353090099766	4,39	
FR	Painting apron children	Truffaut	Aladine	3660016420437	9,79	<b>DEHP 23%</b> Nonylphenols 0,00039%
FR	Kneeling pad	Truffaut	AJS SAS	3414901782007	6,49	Formamide 0,012% DEHP 0,014%
GR	Swimming cap	Intersport	Speedo	5051746920775	7,99	D4 0,0042%; D5 0,038%; D6 0,049%
GR	Swimming goggles	Intersport	Energetics	7624769816844	7,99	D4 0,0014%; D5 0,03%; D6 0,054%
GR	Flower pot	Leroy Merlin	VIOMES	5203493258698	1,79	
GR	Shovel	Leroy Merlin	Gardena	4078500023603	4,89	
GR	Swim ring	Moustakas	Intex	6941057401126	3,99	
HR	Pruning shears	BAUHAUS	Brati ritoša d.o.o.	3858884168340	4,77	<b>DINP 3.2 %</b> <b>MCCPs 0.41 %</b>
HR	Box	BAUHAUS	Gamma wopla	5413995006585	3,71	
HR	Water hose	BAUHAUS	Gardena	4078500002233	31,77	
HR	Funnel	PeveX	Golmax	385889922530	1,97	
HR	Flower pot	PeveX	Pobeda kompani d.o.o.	3858884353227	1,98	
HR	Tongs	PeveX	Unior	3838909078847	14,59	DINP 0,0095% N,N-dimethylformamide 0,00048%
HR	Wire brush	PeveX	Praktik	3858890164121	1,19	
HR	Working gloves	PeveX	Siga	3850277047867	0,80	N,N-dimethylformamide 0,054% ADCA 0.024 %
HR	Shovel	PeveX	LUX Tools	4007873108006	7,29	
HR	Screwdriver	PeveX	Unior	3838909163642	2,51	
HR	Bucket	PeveX	Gutta	5902455507408	1,06	Lead 0,00238 %
HU	Gardening gloves	Praktiker	JHK	5997739570278	1,80	<b>DEHP 23%; DBP 0,032%</b> <b>SCCPs 4,4%; MCCPs 3,6%</b>
HU	Inflatable penguin, swimming	Praktiker	Intex	6941057452203	2,90	
HU	Household gloves	Praktiker	Starling	5999536694157	1,34	
LU	Swimming noodle	Action Luxembourg	Free & Easy	8720573151887	1,99	
LU	Paddling pool	Action Luxembourg	Intex	6941057402406	4,99	
LU	Water hose	Action Luxembourg	Schou company A/S	5709386979140	5,95	<b>DEHP 2%; DBP 0.25%</b> Benzo (a) anthracene 0,00005%; Benzo (a) pyrene 0,00008%; Chrysene 0,00006%
LU	Gardening shoes	ALDI Luxembourg	Walkex home	4047247356558	5,99	

red = not legal in consumer products on EU-market, only few exceptions

orange = duty of information (SVHC above 0,1%, no additional restriction for the respective product)

black = legally allowed on market and no duty of information due to low concentration



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Country	Product	Name of Shop	Brand	Barcode/ Product identifier	Price [€]	SVHCs detected
LU	Pruning shears	ALDI Luxembourg	Gardenline	27026908	6,98	
LV	Working gloves	Būvniecības ABC	Wortex	4741371062483	4,37	
LV	Swim ring/rubber boat	Maxima XXX	Intex	6941057402208	4,54	
LV	Flip-flops	Pepco Latvia	Pepco	2200332021867	1,30	<b>DBP 11%</b> <b>SCCPs 8.3%</b> ADCA 0,0063% Formamide 0,0014%
LV	Water wings	Rimi Latvia	Bestway	6941607306260	1,79	
LV	Toy water pump	Rimi Latvia	Mega creative	5903246430806	1,80	
LV	Watering can	Rimi Latvia	4living collection	6410416052854	8,99	
PL	Markers children	Empik	Empik	33440866	15,08	
PL	Scissors	Empik	Maped	3154144962100	4,31	
PL	Working gloves	Mrówka	Stalco Sp. Z o.o	5901466132296	1,94	
PL	Gardening tools	Pepco	Pepco Home	2200133183764	3,23	
PL	Stamps children	Pepco	Pepco Art & craft	2200329283964	3,23	
PT	Ear protector	Auchan Supermarket	I Tools	5604612006341	7,49	Phenanthrene 0,00004%
PT	Pruning shears	Auchan Supermarket	Gardenstar - Auchan	3245676522167	8,99	
PT	Screwdriver	Auchan Supermarket	Auchan	3245676512380	2,59	
PT	Tool box	Leroy Merlin	Plastiken	8412524018256	6,99	
PT	Extension cable	Leroy Merlin	Lexman	3276000463085	14,79	
PT	Lawn mower wire	Leroy Merlin	Black & Decker	5035048009338	12,99	
PT	Plug socket	Leroy Merlin	Schneider electric	3606481920799	8,99	BPA 0,0014%
PT	Painting brush	Leroy Merlin	Dexter - Leroy Merlin	3276007192780	5,69	
PT	Lashing strap	Leroy Merlin	Standers - Leroy Merlin	327605528734	6,09	Lead 0,00123%
PT	Hinge	Leroy Merlin	Interfer	5603943361426	4,09	
PT	Door handles	Leroy Merlin	Inspire - Leroy Merlin	3276000424963	6,59	Cadmium 0,00206%; Lead 0,00815%
PT	Light switch	Leroy Merlin	Efapel	5603011587864/ 5603011588588	5,48	
PT	Saw	Maxmat	Bellota	8414299314038	24,90	DecaBDE 0,002% Lead 0,00384%
PT	Working gloves	Maxmat	Pecol Safety	5603648839596	6,69	
PT	Pliers	Maxmat	Stanley	3253560848095	13,90	
PT	Utility knife	Maxmat	Topex	5902062140784	3,39	Lead 0,0414%
SE	Gardening shoes	DollarStore	Ahlberg Dollarstore	7330878881047	2,88	DBP 0,026%
SE	Water toy	DollarStore	NL Sport / Alrico Försäljnings AB	7340010291726	2,88	
SE	Water toy	DollarStore	San Zhu / Alrico Försäljnings AB	7340010293478	3,85	
SE	Toy water pump	In & Finn	Free & Easy	8711295038884	2,79	
SE	Water hose	Jula	Hard Head / Jula AB	7330571434991	9,61	
SE	Cooler bag	Jula	Kayoba / Jula AB	7330571343392	16,25	DEHP 0,0053%
SE	Swimming west	MEDS	Swimpy / Tildas	7394437348709	22,98	
SE	Glue gun	ÖoB	Playbox	7394311925828	6,63	

red = not legal in consumer products on EU-market, only few exceptions

orange = duty of information (SVHC above 0,1%, no additional restriction for the respective product)

black = legally allowed on market and no duty of information due to low concentration



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# RECOMMENDATIONS

## What is needed?

- SVHCs in everyday products should be replaced by safe alternatives as soon as possible.
- Substances for which no safe limits can be derived, e.g. chemicals that interfere with the hormone system or non-threshold carcinogens, should be replaced as a matter of priority.
- All potential substances of very high concern should rapidly be identified and evaluated and, where appropriate, added to the candidate list.
- For companies at every stage of the supply chain, the passing on of SVHC information should become a matter of course in compliance with REACH Article 33. Information on SVHCs must be disseminated both along the supply chain and to the competent authorities and ultimately made available to the public and consumers.
- Companies should be made more aware of REACH obligations so that they are correctly implemented.
- The 45-day response period should be shortened, and replies given to any SVHC request, even if no SVHCs are present, in order to avoid misunderstandings.

## What can consumers do?

- Avoid articles made of plastic, especially soft PVC or cheap articles made of dark hard plastic. Return strongly smelling plastic articles to the retailer. Preferably buy products made of natural materials like wood.
- Look out for eco-labels, such as the EU Ecolabel or the Blue Angel.
- Scan products you want to buy in advance with the “Scan4Chem” app and send an SVHC request to the seller or manufacturer of the item. Scan as many products as possible with the Scan4Chem app to show companies that consumers want safe products!

## IMPRINT:

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The information and views set out in this report are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the European Union and the LIFE AskREACH project.



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