

NSF Discusses BPA and Offers Consumer Guidance

Bisphenol A (BPA) has been the subject of recent news reports, which have created questions among consumers regarding the use of plastic bottles.

What products contain BPA?

Bisphenol A (BPA) is an industrial chemical used to make polycarbonate plastics. These plastics are found in many products such as refillable beverage containers, protective linings in food cans, compact disks, plastic dinnerware, impact resistant safety equipment and epoxy resins. BPA is also used in the production of materials found in dental composites and sealants.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

How am I exposed to it?

The major route of exposure in humans is ingestion of BPA leached from materials contacting food or drinking water.

Should I be concerned?

Consumers who are concerned about this issue may want to look for alternative products that have been tested and certified by an independent testing organization. While there are no standards for measuring the potential introduction of BPA from most consumer products, NSF does test consumer water filters (pitchers and faucet mount units). NSF is currently exploring the possibility of developing an independent testing program to help address consumer's concerns about this chemical.

What steps has NSF taken to further research the effects of BPA?

NSF has conducted an [extensive review](#) of the published literature on the toxicology of BPA and has published the results of that review in the form of a risk assessment. The NSF Risk Assessment on BPA was published in the *Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health*, February 2008.

NSF has learned that each product that contains BPA needs to be independently tested. While NSF currently tests for this chemical in products that come in contact with drinking water and polycarbonates components found in municipal drinking water systems, we have not yet tested most consumer products. However, through this research, our goal is to develop additional means for the plastics industry to test and certify products that come in contact with food and water.

What should I do?

You can express your concerns to the product manufacturer and let them know that certification is important to you as a consumer. Ask them if their polycarbonate products have been tested.

Who is NSF International?

As an independent, not-for-profit organization, NSF International certifies products and writes standards that protect food, water and consumer goods. Since 1944, our goal has been to help businesses and organizations provide safer products to protect consumers worldwide. The NSF Mark is a symbol of this expertise. Today, the NSF Mark appears on more than 100 million products worldwide and symbolizes the relationships that NSF has developed with key stakeholder groups - regulators, users and industry - all of which are built on trust, experience, acceptance and independence.

To learn more about products that NSF certifies, visit www.nsf.org/consumer/.