



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/cm³. 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 | Benzo (a) anthracene 0,00223%* ; Benzo (a) pyrene 0,00273%* ; Chrysene 0,00217%* ; Benzo (k) fluoranthene 0,00033%* Lead 0,00412% BPA 0,0000442% |
| AT | Waterproof tape | OBI | TREXTAPE.EU | 4053718000752 | 17,99 | 2-(2H-Benzotriazol-2-yl)-4,6-di-tert-pentylphenol (UV 328) 0,22% |
| DE | Plastic cord | HELLWEG | siena Garden/H.Gautzsch GmbH & Co. KG + GARDAMO GmbH & Co. KG | 4019111464744 | 4,99 | DIBP 16% MCCPs 12% |
| DE | Water hose | HELLWEG | BASIC/HELLWEG | 2057538600002 | 7,99 | MCCPs 0,48% |
| DE | Pond liner | OBI | Heissner GmbH | 4006873171249 | 21,99 | DEHP 0,15% MCCPs 0,15% |
| FR | Painting apron children | Truffaut | Aladine | 3660016420437 | 9,79 | DEHP 23% Nonylphenols 0,00039% |
| HR | Pruning shears | BAUHAUS | Brati ritoša d.o.o. | 3858884168340 | 4,77 | DINP 3.2 % MCCPs 0.41 % |
| HU | Gardening gloves | Praktiker | JHK | 5997739570278 | 1,80 | DEHP 23%; DBP 0,032% SCCPs 4,4%; MCCPs 3,6% |
| LU | Water hose | Action Luxembourg | Schou company A/S | 5709386979140 | 5,95 | DEHP 2%; DBP 0.25% Benzo (a) anthracene 0,00005%; Benzo (a) pyrene 0,00008%; Chrysene 0,00006% |
| LV | Flip-flops | Pepco Latvia | Pepco | 2200332021867 | 1,30 | DBP 11% SCCPs 8.3% 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 | Benzo (a) anthracene 0,00223%*; Benzo (a) pyrene 0,00273%*; Chrysene 0,00217%*; Benzo (k) fluoranthene 0,00033%* 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 | 2-(2H-Benzotriazol-2-yl)-4,6-di-tert-pentylphenol (UV 328) 0,22% |
| 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 | DIBP 16% MCCPs 12% |
| DE | Water hose | HELLWEG | BASIC/HELLWEG | 2057538600002 | 7,99 | MCCPs 0,48% |

*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)

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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 | DEHP 0,15% MCCPs 0,15% |
| 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 | DEHP 23% 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 | DINP 3.2 % MCCPs 0.41 % |
| 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 | DEHP 23%; DBP 0,032% SCCPs 4,4%; MCCPs 3,6% |
| 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 | DEHP 2%; DBP 0.25% Benzo (a) anthracene 0,00005%; Benzo (a) pyrene 0,00008%; Chrysene 0,00006% |
| LU | Gardening shoes | ALDI Luxembourg | Walkex home | 4047247356558 | 5,99 | |

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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 | DBP 11% SCCPs 8.3% 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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