

# Protect Your Family's Health: Join the Maine Campaign for BPA-Free Food

To protect the healthy development of babies and children, we must end exposure to BPA in our food supply. Our campaign will:

1. **Celebrate** the success of ending use of BPA in plastic baby bottles, sippy cups, and infant formula cans;
2. **Ask** Maine state agencies to phase out BPA in baby food and toddler food containers under the Kid Safe Products Act; and
3. **Ask** all candidates running for the Maine Legislature in 2012 to support closing a loophole that allows BPA use in most canned foods.

**Learning disabilities, prostate cancer, breast cancer.** These are just a few of the concerns with BPA (also known as bisphenol A), a widely used, man-made chemical that wreaks hormone havoc early in life.<sup>1</sup> Over five billion pounds of BPA are produced every year by Dow Chemical, Bayer, Sunoco and other toxic chemical makers.<sup>2</sup>

Concern about the health threats of BPA has grown ever since BPA was discovered polluting the bodies of 93% of all Americans.<sup>3</sup> Most people are exposed to BPA by eating canned foods.<sup>4</sup> BPA leaks out of the can linings, contaminating the food or beverage inside. Metal lids on glass jars also leach BPA into our food.

**BPA exposure could be slashed by two-thirds if food packaging were BPA-free.<sup>5</sup>**

## Let's follow the pathway to health that gets BPA out of our food supply!



### 2010 Baby Bottles & Sippy Cups

BPA use ended after moms demanded safety and nine states banned it. In 2011, Governor LePage tried to repeal Maine's BPA ban, saying that all women had to worry about was "little beards." Maine lawmakers upheld the ban by a 145 – 3 vote!



### 2011 Infant Formula

Manufacturers switched to BPA-free containers in response to concerned mothers, health scientists, Congress and state regulation. Maine required BPA use reporting, which confirmed complete success!



### 2012 Baby Food

Maine agencies must now end the use of BPA in baby food jar lids. Gerber eliminated BPA and Earth's Best pledged to be BPA-free by October 2012. But laggards like Beech-Nut and Shaw's Wild Harvest violated Maine law by failing to report their continued BPA use!



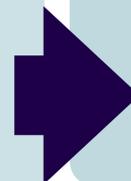
### 2013 Toddler Food

Maine agencies must stop the use of BPA in canned foods that are marketed to preschoolers. The food giant Campbell's, for example, uses Dora the Explorer to sell canned foods containing BPA to young kids!



### 2014 All Foods

The Maine Legislature must close the loophole that allows BPA use in most canned foods. When pregnant women eat canned foods, their babies are exposed. Everybody deserves BPA-free food!



# Help Get BPA Out of Our Food Supply!

## What You Can Do

1. **Collect** signatures for a voter-initiated rulemaking to force the LePage Administration to end BPA use in baby food and toddler food
2. **Write** a letter to the editor
3. **Testify** at the public hearing (this summer)
4. **Ask** your candidates for State Representative and Senator to support legislation to end all use of BPA in the food supply
5. **Share** this with your friends

### To get involved, contact:

Emma Halas-O'Connor at [ehalasoc@preventharm.org](mailto:ehalasoc@preventharm.org)  
or 207-699-5799. [www.cleanandhealthyme.org](http://www.cleanandhealthyme.org)

## BPA and the Kid Safe Products Act

In 2008, the Maine Legislature passed a landmark law to ensure that the products we purchase and use are free from toxic chemicals. The Kid Safe Products Act requires manufacturers to tell us what priority chemicals of high concern are in their products. The State can require safer substitutes when they're available and affordable.

In 2010, BPA was named the first priority chemical under the Kid Safe Products Act. By October 2011, mandatory reporting revealed that 8 toy makers use BPA in plastic parts (including many PlayMobil figures and Chicco rattles). Infant formula companies confirmed their successful phase-out of BPA. Most baby food manufacturers reported BPA use late or not at all, in violation of Maine law. (See <http://www.preventharm.org/Content/491.php> for more info).

The ban on BPA use in plastic baby bottles, sippy cups and reusable food and beverage containers took formal effect on January 1, 2012.

## Sources

1. [Rationale for Concurrence by Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention on the Designation of Bisphenol A as a Priority Chemical](#) (April 23, 2010); National Toxicology Program – Center for the Evaluation of Risks to Human Reproduction, [NTP-CERHR Monograph on the Potential Human Reproductive and Developmental Effects of Bisphenol A](#) (Sept. 2008).
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Chemical Information: Bisphenol A, [http://www.cdc.gov/exposurereport/data\\_tables/BisphenolA\\_ChemicalInformation.html](http://www.cdc.gov/exposurereport/data_tables/BisphenolA_ChemicalInformation.html); U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, TSCA Inventory Use Reports (2006, updated).
3. Calafat AM, Ye X, Wong L-Y, Reidy JA, Needham LL (2008). [Exposure of the U.S. Population to Bisphenol A and 4-tertiary-Octylphenol: 2003-2004](#). *Environmental Health Perspectives*. 116(1):39-44.
4. Schecter A, Malik N, Haffner D, Smith S, Harris TR, Paepke O & Birnbaum L (2010). [Bisphenol A \(BPA\) in U.S. Food](#). *Environmental Science & Technology*. 44(24):9425-9430.
5. Rudel RA, Gray JM, Engel CL, Rawsthorne TW, Dodson RE, Ackerman AM, Rizzo J, Nudelman J & Brody JG (2011). [Food Packaging and Bisphenol A and Bis\(2-Ethylhexyl\) Phthalate Exposure: Findings from a Dietary Intervention](#). *Environmental Health Perspectives*. 119(7):914-920.

## CONSUMER TIPS:

### How can I protect my family from BPA?

**GET** involved in the Maine Campaign for BPA-Free Food!

**LOOK** for the words "BPA free" on labels of food containers

**SELECT** locally grown fresh and frozen foods, rather than canned or jarred foods, when practical

**AVOID** products made from polycarbonate plastic, sometimes labeled 'PC', when practical

**MINIMIZE** handling of cash register receipts (many use BPA for thermal printing)

**REDUCE** use or contact with epoxy resins (most are made with BPA)



**A collaboration of**  
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Learning Disabilities Association of Maine  
Maine Labor Group on Health  
Maine Council of Churches  
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