Best Practices in Sustainable Procurement:

Don’t forget chemicals!

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Why include chemicals?

• **Health impacts:**
  • reduces exposure to toxic chemicals
  • Employee health
    • Respiratory irritants, hormone disruptors, cancers, neurotoxic

• **Environmental impacts:**
  • End of life
The “Hazardous Handful”

- Antimicrobials
  - VOC’s (including Formaldehyde)

- Fluorinated Stain Treatments

- Flame Retardants

- PVC
The Hazardous Handful

- **FLAME RETARDANTS**
  - Not effective at retarding flames
  - Linked to many cancers, reproductive disorders
  - FOUND IN: furniture, textiles

- Purchase furniture that is TB 117-2013 compliant
  - Without flame retardants!
The hazardous handful

• **ANTIMICROBIALS**
  
  • Overuse is a BIG problem
  • Bacterial resistant infections

• FOUND IN: soaps, washing supplies
The hazardous handful

• Per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)
  • Kidney and testicular cancers, liver disease, reproductive disorders, thyroid disruption, impaired immunity

• FOUND IN: food packaging, stain resistant textiles, water-resistant clothing
The hazardous handful

• **Formaldehyde and other volatile organic compounds (VOCs)**
  
  • Respiratory irritants and asthma triggers
  
  • FOUND IN: flooring, vinyl products, furniture
Plastics

- Polyvinyl chloride (PVC)