



Triclosan

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emerging PBT (persistent, bioaccumulative, toxic) | www.toxies.com/triclosan

Since **Triclosan's** debut role over thirty years ago, the FDA has allowed him to star in personal-care products, but has yet to implement a rule book for this bad boy. Companies cast Triclosan in a vast array of products we use on our skin and in our mouths, and on our babies and kids, even though he builds up in our bodies and has been linked to harm. His links to cancer, thyroid disruption, and antibiotic-resistant "superbugs," may have begun to impact his career.

Triclosan has played several roles as an antibacterial hero, fighting germs, mold and odor, but as it turns out, this so-called clean chemical plays dirty. His work has opened many doors for fellow bad actors, such as Dioxin, Methyl Triclosan and Chloroform. Critics have found that the hype around Triclosan's supposed ability to prevent illness isn't fully warranted: Triclosan is no more effective than the timeless performers, Regular Soap and Water.



BUILD/WEIGHT An organic compound, $C_{12}H_7Cl_3O_2$, slightly soluble in water.

LEADING ROLES

☠ Triclosan's leading role is in approximately 75% of liquid hand soaps in the United States, but he also regularly appears in dish soaps, toothpaste, cosmetics, antiperspirants, cutting boards, toys, fabrics and other everyday products. Despite his reputation as a "squeaky clean" actor, Triclosan has been negatively impacting the health of humans and our aquatic ecosystem.

SPECIAL SKILLS

☠ When he's not acting in soap operas, Triclosan vacations in lakes, rivers and other waterways where his toxicity does not play well with aquatic life. Doctors recommend avoiding household products with this bad actor (who sometimes performs under the stage name Microban) and his chemical cousin, Triclocarban.

Triclosan has been linked to cancer, thyroid disruption, and antibiotic-resistant "superbugs," which may be beginning to impact his career.

Because of his potency and tremendous public exposure, Triclosan is linked to skin irritation, liver and inhalation toxicity, thyroid disruption and cancer. Triclosan trickles down consumers' drains and goes on to build up in our waterways, in algae and aquatic life, and even on the sludge that is spread on our crop fields.

PERFORMANCE REVIEWS

☠ Triclosan knows just how to get under his audience's skin! He is found in most American bodies and in 75% of urine samples in a study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The latest data from the CDC shows Triclosan's 40% increase in levels found in people over a two-year period.

RECENT CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

☠ Because Triclosan is a glutton for new gigs and is found in so many everyday products, he is regulated by three federal agencies: the Food and Drug Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

The European Commission's Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety determined that even small amounts of Triclosan can set off antibiotic resistance in bacteria, and Canada has banned Triclosan from consumer products.

In 2009, Beyond Pesticides and Food & Water Watch, along with 86 other nonprofit groups filed a petition with the U.S. EPA asking the agency to consider banning Triclosan in consumer products. In 2011 the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics and other environmental health organizations have asked the EPA and the FDA to ban Triclosan from household products and asked consumers to take the Triclosan-Free Pledge.

In April 2011 the EPA closed the public comment period on the Triclosan petition, and will now review the 800+ comments and 10,000 e-mails.

REPRESENTING AGENTS

☠ Ciba Specialty Chemicals invented Triclosan over 35 years ago. A long list of suppliers includes the Ningbo Zhihua Chemical Co., LTD, Hunan Dajie Technology Co., LTD, and Shanghai SMEC Trading Co., LTD. Companies found on line that have manufacturing facilities in the U.S. include KIC Chemicals, Inc., Sino Lion (USA) Ltd., Loipart LLC.

The Soap and Detergent Association, which represents the \$30 billion cleaning products business, says concerns about Triclosan are unfounded.

