

# Prop 65

## Flame Retardants in the Furniture Industry

It's ironic that the flame retardant chemical compounds at the center of California's Prop 65 were originally included in urethane foams to satisfy California's TB 117. While other states do not have labeling laws like Prop 65, the flame retardant chemical issue will become more visible on the national level when HBO airs **"Toxic Hot Seat" at 9 PM on November 25th.**

In 1975 California introduced Technical Bulletin 117 in an effort to prevent residential structure fires and the deaths and injuries that resulted. A prior initiative, the Upholstered Furniture Action Council created a voluntary industry standard that also focused on improving the safety of upholstered furniture. The result, aided by a decline in smoking prevalence and the increased use of residential smoke detectors, was an 85% reduction in upholstered furniture fires.

The most critical element in upholstered furniture fires is urethane foam as it is often the first material to combust and can burn rapidly. The TB 117 standard requires that polyurethane foams be exposed to a 1.5" gas flame for 12 seconds and that weight loss not exceed 5%. To pass this test flame retardant chemicals had to be added to the foam.

The foams used by Harden Furniture do not contain any of the three critical flame retardant compounds that are considered toxins and that require a Prop 65 warning label. (These chemicals can still be included in foams, but in California a warning label has to be attached to the product and posted at the store entrance.) If any consumers ask what those chemical compounds are here are their common and technical names:

***Toxic flame retardant compounds (Prop 65 warning)***

<b>TDCPP</b>	<b>Tris(1,3-dichloro-2-propyl) phosphate</b>
<b>TCEP</b>	<b>Tris(2-chloroethyl) phosphate</b>
<b>PDEs</b>	<b>Polybrominated diphenyl ethers</b>

Harden is committed to providing furnishings that are free of harmful chemical compounds and we strive to stay current with current standards and new regulations.

