

AN IMPORTANT NOTICE TO DISTRIBUTORS AND RETAILERS REGARDING TEFLON ADVANCED CARPET TREATMENT

**Are you informing customers
of potential exposure to PFOA from
Teflon Advanced?
If not . . . your company may be
risking liability.**



DuPont reports that trace amounts of PFOA, also known as C8, “may form as an unintended by-product during manufacture” of telomer-based products. A recent study by Clean Production Action, an environmental policy group, found PFOA at various levels in dust sampled from 70 US households. The Environmental Protection Agency is researching telomers as a possible source of PFOA that is believed to be in almost every American’s blood.

DuPont’s Teflon Advanced carpet treatments may be one of the largest sources of PFOA in the household environment. **This was recently documented in a DuPont-commissioned study in which carpet-care solution-treated carpeting tested with an extraction test showed the highest levels of perfluorooctanoate of any of the fourteen types of household fluorotelomer and fluoropolymers consumer products tested.**

Health Studies Testing has shown that PFOA can result in cancer, birth defects and liver damage in animals. EPA is reviewing the potential effects in humans.

Chief Executive Magazine “DuPont’s Teflon Dilemma”— November 1, 2003 When 3M, a former manufacturer of PFOA, submitted data to the EPA in 2001 finding C8 in the blood of 96% of 598 children studied across the country, 3M’s “researchers speculated that children might be exposed by crawling on carpets treated with stain repellants...”

Mothering Magazine—November 1, 2004 The nation’s leading publication for expectant mothers and “natural family living” identifies PFOA as a chemical that “accumulates in the body and may be especially harmful to fetuses and children.”

DuPont’s mixed message DuPont uses its studies to assert that PFOA will not harm human health. Nevertheless, while denying liability, it settled a lawsuit over PFOA pollution in drinking water near its WV Teflon plant for over \$100 million, and has reserved \$15 million to settle some of EPA’s charges that it withheld PFOA data from the EPA for two decades. DuPont has also announced plans to essentially eliminate PFOA in its telomer products by the end of 2006.

In the meantime, are carpet applicators and distributors placing themselves at risk of liability in using the current formulation?

In the event that customers bring successful lawsuits asserting harm to their health by PFOA, distributors or retailers could be found liable for failure to warn them. In past liability suits on products such as defective tires and pharmaceuticals, courts have found a duty to warn to exist where the manufacturer, distributor, or retailer had knowledge of risks and due to lack of warning, customers were harmed by an unreasonably dangerous product.

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**This public safety message is brought to you by
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