

## YOUR DAUGHTER AND BREAST CANCER

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# Reducing her risk now



Steps you can take **now** may lower her risk of developing breast cancer **later**

[www.info.bcerp.org](http://www.info.bcerp.org)



Parents try to help their children grow up healthy. But the environment around a young girl may change the way her body develops.

Scientists in the Breast Cancer and the Environment Research Program—which is supported by the National Institutes of Health—are exploring whether exposure to certain chemicals and foods may change how girls' bodies mature.

Other research shows a link between an early first period and a higher risk of developing breast cancer as an adult.

It is too soon to say for sure that avoiding certain chemicals or some foods lowers the risk of breast cancer. Still, to help protect your daughter from developing breast cancer later in life, you may wish to **take some of these steps now.**



## Start early.

The effects of the environment on the development of a girl's body appear to start before birth. Remember that when you are pregnant or breastfeeding, what you eat or come in contact with may affect your baby as well.

To learn more, visit [www.info.bcerp.org](http://www.info.bcerp.org)

## ► Use products free of phthalates and BPA.

Phthalates (THAL-ates) are chemicals in some detergents, storage containers, toys, and personal care products (like fragrance, nail polish, deodorant, hair care, and body lotion). They may enter your daughter's body through her skin. BPA (or bisphenol A) is a chemical in some plastic bottles and plastic containers, and in the lining of some cans. It can leak into food and drinks.

Even small amounts of some chemicals may cause changes in growth and body development.

## ► Encourage your daughter to live a healthy lifestyle.

Eating healthy foods and being active may lower your daughter's risk of developing breast cancer as an adult.

### WHEN POSSIBLE:

#### **Choose to**

- Use more fragrance-free products.
- Use glass containers for cooking, serving, and storing foods and drinks.
- Microwave food in glass containers, not plastic containers or plastic wrap.
- Add fresh or frozen fruits and vegetables to your family's meals, instead of using canned foods.
- Include whole grains and beans, including soy, in your children's diet.
- Eat healthy and be active yourself, and make it something you and your children do together.

**For tips on making healthy choices on a budget, visit [www.info.bcerp.org](http://www.info.bcerp.org) and click on "Links."**

#### **Reduce your use of**

- Personal care products with the word "phthalate" in the ingredients, such as hair care.
- Plastic food and drink containers, and plastic or vinyl toys, with the number 3 in the recycling triangle. They contain phthalates.
- Plastic food and drink containers with the number 7 in the recycling triangle. They often contain BPA.
- Foods sold in cans, which may be lined with material made with BPA.
- Foods with high amounts of animal fat (like beef, pork, or chicken fat; butter, cream, or cheese) when you shop, cook, or eat out.



Cetyl Alcohol, Synthetic Beeswax,  
Stearyl Alcohol, Benzyl Alcohol,  
**DEP** (diethyl phthalate)  
Methylparaben, Propylparaben,  
Butylparaben, BHT, Sodium

*Look carefully: "phthalate" can be a small part of an ingredients list.*

Steps you take today may lower your daughter's  
risk of developing breast cancer later.

**For more information, visit:**

[www.info.bcerp.org](http://www.info.bcerp.org)

The Breast Cancer and the Environment Research Program (BCERP)  
is a network of scientists, physicians, and community partners  
studying the effects of environmental exposures that may  
affect breast cancer risk later in life.



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