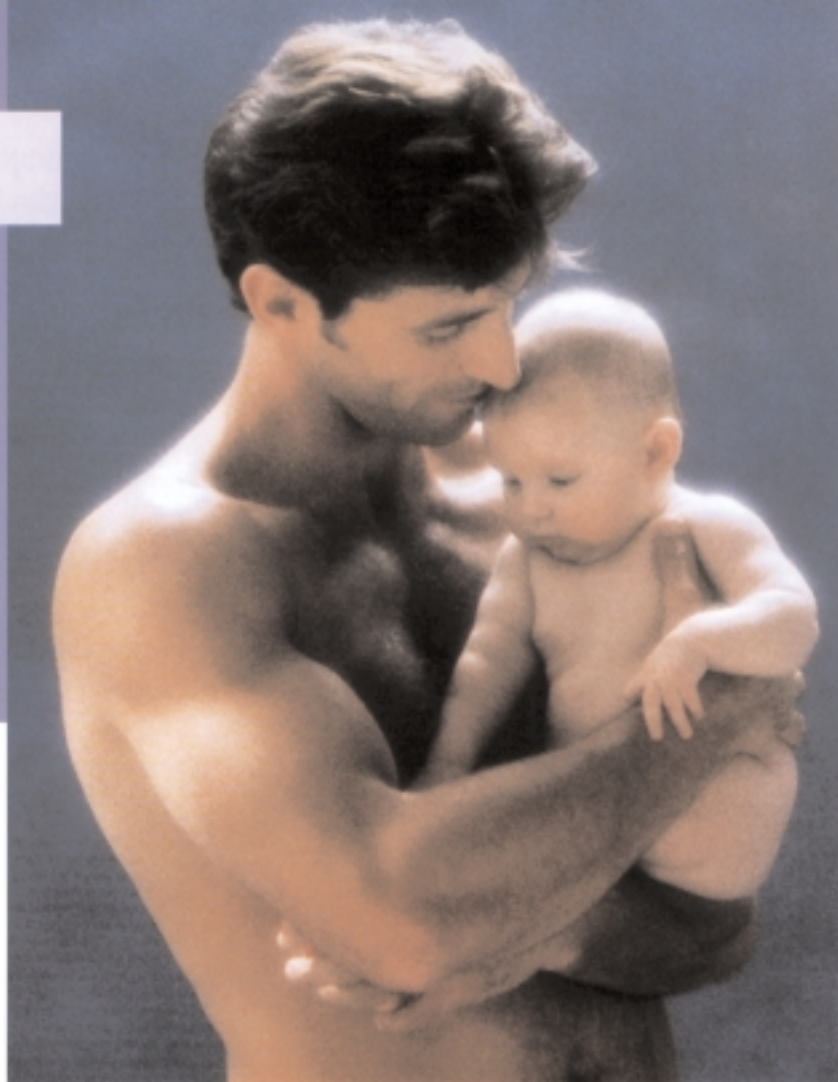


no cover-up on *cancer claims* or *hormone* disruption

Science Supporting PVC in the Environment



“ Phthalates have been carefully researched for their impact on the environment and health. They have been shown to be safe. ”

The easiest way to grab headlines is by creating scare stories which claim there are links

between everyday products and our health. And some of the worst examples of recent scaremongering concern suggestions that some of the ingredients in PVC can reduce male sperm counts and even cause cancer.

This information sheet aims to put your mind at rest. It avoids the kind of emotional misinformation which has caused so much concern and presents, in simple language, the conclusions of many eminent scientific bodies which support the view that PVC is entirely safe.

What are Phthalates and why are they used?

Phthalates are a family of chemicals principally used

in rubbers, printing inks, paints, plastics and perfumes. Phthalates are used in some – but not all – flexible PVC formulations. Phthalates are used to soften PVC for applications like blood bags, gloves, hoses, cables and flexible film. Phthalate plasticisers are not present in rigid PVC, for example bottles, food trays, sandwich boxes, window frames, pipework, gutters etc. Phthalates are not used in PVC food packaging, food ‘wrappings’ or clingfilm manufactured in the UK.

Phthalates are photodegradable, biodegradable, and non-bio-accumulative, so levels of phthalates in the environment are very low and reducing.

Because certain phthalates have been used as a PVC plasticiser for at least fifty years, a large body of authoritative data has been generated about their safety. They have been approved for use in many safety-critical medical devices, including life-saving medical products such as blood bags and medical tubing.

