

What toys are non-toxic?

The safest toys are those made from solid woods with non-toxic finishes and natural textiles like organic cotton or wool.

Why not plastic?

From Healthy Child Healthy World:

- The phthalates found in toys are used as a plastic softener in polyvinyl chloride (also known as PVC or vinyl). Some PVC toys may be labeled with a V or #3 inside the chasing arrows triangle usually located on the bottom of a product. Most won't be labeled at all. Generally, if a toy is a squishy plastic—like rubber duckies and baby dolls—or if it has highly flexible plastic as a component—like the clear pages in child "photo albums," the clear plastic purses that some girl's toys are sold in, or the plastic-like "fabric" used on some dolls—you should avoid it or call the manufacturer to ask if the product is made with PVC or phthalates.
- During the production phase, workers at PVC facilities, as well as residents in surrounding areas, may be exposed to vinyl chloride (the building block of PVC) and/or dioxin (an unwanted byproduct of PVC production), both of which are carcinogens. At the end of a product's life, PVC can create dioxin when burned. PVC is not easily recycled. Lead and other metals are sometimes used as a stabilizer or to impart other properties to PVC plastic.
- Lead -causes neurological damage that is irreversible & is a possible carcinogen
- BPA- Suspected Endocrine Disruptor (May interfere with, mimic or block hormones.) Unfortunately, polycarbonate plastics are used to make toys, which young kids are so known for chewing on. Since chewing can break down the plastic and release BPA into a toddler's mouth, minimizing plastic toys during the chewing stage is a good idea.
- Phthalates can harm reproductive development, especially in boys. They have also been linked to asthma. Some phthalates have been linked to cancer, kidney and liver damage and harm to developing reproductive organs.

www.healthychild.org

Special Thanks to Whole Earth Provision, 255 E. Basse Rd. (in the Quarry Market), 210-829-8888, <http://www.wholeearthprovision.com>, for loaning us the following toys for the show:

Melissa & Doug toys
MiYim Organic Toys
Green Toys
Spirit of the Wind Boomerang
Bamboo cup & ball toy

Other stores where many natural & non-toxic toys may be found:

<http://www.novanatural.com/>

<http://www.magiccabin.com/>

<http://www.for-smallhands.com/>

http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Dtoys-and-games&field-keywords=wooden+toys&x=0&y=0

http://www.etsy.com/search/handmade?search_submit=&q=toys&order=most_relevant&ship_to=US&view_type=list

Citiblocs, Destruct 3, Castle Logix, HABA Orchard game & Shut the Box can be found at www.amazon.com.

More information on why natural toys are the best choice can be found here:

<http://naturalfamilytoday.com/parenting/natural-wood-and-cloth-toys-earth-friendly-and-kid-safe/>

Never underestimate yourself & all the great toys YOU can make! Start with something simple, like playdough: <http://www.skiptomylou.org/2010/08/18/using-natural-dye-for-homemade-playdough>

Or look here for instructions on lots of DIY projects: <http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/free-tutorials-kids-toys-christmas/>