

Bridging the gap: Transparency in building materials

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ABSTRACT: In creating our Transparency list, we researched chemicals that are harmful to human and environmental health, to find those that are used within our sphere of influence – the building materials we as designers specify. We identified 25 items that have the most information available on potential health effects, but that do not have readily-available alternatives that designers could specify. Of those 25 items, flame retardants were the category that required in-depth research. With an input from chemistry expert, we intended to bridge the knowledge gap between the chemicals in building materials and the designers and architects specifying them. Future steps include continuing collaboration between design professionals and chemical engineers.