

## The Arsenic Index

1. Micrograms of arsenic allowed per liter of drinking water-Clinton proposed law: 10
2. Micrograms of arsenic allowed per liter of drinking water- current law: 50
3. Micrograms of arsenic per liter found to cause endocrine system disruption: 25 - 50
4. Micrograms of arsenic found on the surface of 15 sq. inches of playground equipment: up to 632
5. Micrograms of arsenic ingested by children, per visit, to playground: estimated to 630
6. Micrograms of arsenic on hands - 5 minutes contact with treated wood: up to 1,260
7. Number of times small children put hands in mouth per hour: up to 45
8. Amount of arsenic legally allowed on the surface of playground equipment: unlimited
9. Amount of arsenic considered safe for ingestion by children: 0
10. Federal agencies that track illness associated with arsenic treated wood: 0
11. Amount of pure arsenic in a 12 foot long 2 by 6: 1 oz
12. Amount of pure arsenic that could kill 250 adults: 1 oz
13. Zoos that prohibit the use of arsenic treated wood in order to protect the animals: Bronx; Lincoln Park (Chicago); National (Washington, DC); San Diego; Los Angeles
14. Prison systems that halted use of arsenic wood treatment: Florida, order of Jeb Bush
15. Arsenic wastes exempt from hazardous waste disposal laws: 1 - treated wood products
16. World's largest user of arsenic: US treated wood products
17. Percentage of arsenic produced worldwide used by US treated wood industry: 50
18. Estimate of arsenic used for wood in 1996: 30 million lbs.
19. Estimate of arsenic used for wood products since 1964: 550 million lbs.
20. Amount of water this could contaminate at 10 micrograms per liter: the Great Lakes
21. Amount of water this could contaminate at 26 micrograms per liter if just 5% of this arsenic reached the water table: equal to Lake Erie
22. Percent of market held by 3 manufactures of arsenic treatment compound: 100
23. Percent of these companies that also manufacture arsenic-free compound: 100
24. Years since American Wood Preservers Institute informed EPA that consumer safety information sheets provided to retailers were "not working:" 7
25. Manufacturers rationale for continued arsenic sales despite available safer alternatives: consumer demand at retail level
26. Number of Lowes & Home Depot retail stores in the US: more than 2000
27. Annual combined sales of Lowes & Home Depot 1999: more than \$52 billion
28. Annual combined sales of next 10 largest competitors 1999: less than \$21 billion
29. Number of Lowes & Home Depot outlets stocking arsenic-free treated lumber: 0

Sources: HBN investigations unless otherwise noted. 1) US EPA, 2) US EPA, 3) Kaltreider 2000, 4) Stillwell 1998, 5) CA Dept. of Health Services 1987, 6) CA Dept. of Health Services 1987, 7) Zartarian 1997, 9) Environment Canada 1993, 10) Seattle Times 4/15/01, 11) OriGen Biomedical, Austin Texas RIST 1998, 12) ATSDR 2000, 15) US EPA, 16) AWPI 1997, 17) USGS 2000, 18) AWPI 1997, 19) EWG 2001, 20) EWG 2001, 21) EWG 2001, 24) Seattle Times 4/15/01, 26) Lowes/Home Depot, 27) Lowes/Home Depot, 27) National Home Center News, 28) National Home Center News

(full citations and calculations available in the Environmental Working Group and Healthy Buildings Networks report Poisoned Playgrounds)