

Did you know
There are
4 Dangerous
Chemicals used to make
Blackout Drapes?



Here is how I discovered what they are. I have intense Vertigo. I have lived in my apartment for years without incident. Suddenly they erected a 30' flag pole near my living room windows. The first few days I thought the enormous American Flag was quite beautiful.

Then one day I walked into my living room to find **HUGE ULULATING WAVES** filling my large windows. They were caused by the shadows of the flag flapping in the wind. If you know what Vertigo is, you know I was on the floor thinking I might die right on the spot.

If you don't know what Vertigo is read all about it on **page 61** in **Volume 4** of **Cooking with Judy**.

I immediately called the complex manager. Thank heavens she knew what Vertigo was. A lot of people don't. She immediately had maintenance take the flag down. What a relief... now what?

She could not leave the flag down for long therefore, she suggested I buy BLACKOUT

drapes for all the windows. She would have maintenance install them. So I did.

Later that evening after we got them up I sat down to read. And . . .

What is that AWFUL smell??

I checked out the back door, nothing. I walk all the way thru sniffing as I went. Nothing not even out the front door. Not the trash, not the fridge or stove.

Then I sat back down to read . . .

Phew what is that AWFUL smell?

From my research I found the primary cause of the foul smell that comes with a set of blackout curtains is the **manufacturing process**.

Just like with sugar they don't have to tell you they use chlorine bleach and ammonia in the process of refining sugar. See page **18** in **Volume 6** of **Cooking with Judy**.

Or that the 'white' film on those cute little

round Baby carrots is actually chorine. Yep, see my research on page **53** in **Volume 6** of [Cooking with Judy](#).

Back to the Blackout Drapes, they DON'T have to tell you how they make them. Which is; they coat a piece of polyester (all poly is plastic) fabric with layers of acrylic (more plastic), foam (more chemicals). See my research on **Memory Foam** page **60** in **Volume 3** of [Cooking with Judy](#)).

Last but not least: adhesives (more chemicals) to achieve the blackout properties. These textiles, dyes, and fabric finishes contain chemicals such as: **Chlorine**, **Formaldehyde**, **Pesticides** and **PFCs**. What effect do these have on humans?

Chlorine: Long-term exposure to low levels of chlorine gas is potentially linked to diseases of the lung like bronchitis, shortness of breath, possible permanent damage.

Formaldehyde: Long term exposure to formaldehyde has been shown to be associated with an increased risk of cancer of the nose and accessory sinuses, nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal cancer, and lung cancer in humans.

Pesticides: Long-term exposure to pesticides can cause loss of memory, anxiety, mood changes, and trouble concentrating. Damage to the immune system. Could this be the cause of Dementia or Alzheimer's?

PFCs: Perfluorochemicals are toxic and NOT biodegradable they will be with us forever. Exposure can cause liver damage, thyroid disease, decreased fertility, high cholesterol, obesity, hormone suppression and cancer.

Ever wonder how people, who have never smoked, wind up with Lung Cancer?

Just because something is available for sale, doesn't mean it is safe.

I did put the drapes in the dryer on air before installing, to remove wrinkles. I also left the blinds open to expose them to sunlight. Both, caused them to off-gas even more. Like a hot shower does to vinyl shower curtains.

Leaving the windows open and putting a pie plate full of Baking Soda next to the offending drapes did not help either. Still horrible **BAD** orders.

Reminds me of when I first discovered the TOXIC **off-gassing** of vinyl shower curtains. The smell NEVER goes away. You just get use to it.

Just like smokers . . . they have no idea how bad they STINK. Or people who have cats and have no idea they NEED to change the cat box. Read my research on on **Indoor Air Quality**, page **26** in **Volume 2** of on [Cooking with Judy](#).

Learn more about other household **TOXINS** on page **19** of **Volume 4**, in [Cooking with Judy](#).

I did some additional research on what to do BEFORE you hang the drapes. They say to spray the back of the drapes using one part white vinegar and 3 parts water in a large spray bottle. Be sure to saturate all the folds and creases. Allow to dry.

I laid each drapery panel on the floor and thoroughly sprayed it with the above solution. I let them thoroughly dry overnight. Rehung only to endure the horrid stench. Plus beware, if you have metal grommets, they will rust.

I repeated the above process on both sides of each panel **SIX** times without success.

Since the grommets were already rusty, I decided why not just soak them in the washer. I used 3 gallons of white Vinegar to 3/4 tub of HOT water. Let them soak over night and rehung them. Only to still smell the off gassing of the **TOXINS**.

Now thoroughly discussed I poured a huge amount of laundry soap in a full load of HOT water and left them to soak over night and all of the next day.

Now when I rehung they they smelled slightly of soap and were peppered with tiny pin holes all over at random. Guess it was the soap that caused the white vinyl

fronts to peel in tiny spots. It really doesn't matter since I am not hanging them for beauty, but rather to save myself from horrible unending episodes of Vertigo.

I reached out to the [Global Organic Textile Standard](#) organization. They support ecology & social responsibility I inquired if there were any organic blackout drapes on the market.

They referred me Pottery Barn, whose website states the drapes are organic. They are NOT. The young clerk was as disappointed as I was to find the lining is polyester. Which of course is NOT organic but plastic. The outer drapery material is organic but the lining is not. I let **GOTS** know about the error.

The best way to prevent **TOXINS** in you home is to never buy them in the first place.

It is amazing to me how people never ask how their food, clothing, furniture, homes and cars are manufactured.

Just like with food **organic** means **NO** pesticides or chemicals of any kind. Check with **GOTS** to see if your next purchase is certify organic.

It is important to do your due-diligence when paying out your hard earned money for ANYTHING. Remember YOU are the **ONLY** one who can keep yourself and loved ones **SAFE**.