

When Foam Rubber . . . **isn't** Rubber anymore!

Rubber is a natural milky white liquid which is extracted from the Hevea-Brasilienis tree, better known as the rubber tree. Rubber trees are native to South America and were spread around the world in the 19th century because of their great value.

Foam rubber, also called Sponge Rubber, or **Latex** Foam, flexible, porous substance made from a synthetic compounded with various ingredients and whipped into a froth. The resulting product contains roughly 85 percent air and 15 percent *latex* and can be molded and vulcanized.

Commercial foam rubbers are generally made of **synthetic** rubber, or **polyurethane** (plastic). **Synthetic latex** is produced from petrochemicals, which is actually made from the sludge that isn't good enough to make oil or gasoline for your car.

Several types of synthetic latex exist but SBR (**styrene-butadiene** rubber) is the most common type and generally has a stronger and more abrasive odor than natural latex.

The conventional method of producing **styrene** involves the alkylation of **benzene** with ethylene to produce ethylbenzene, followed by

dehydrogenation of ethylbenzene to styrene. Styrene undergoes polymerization by all the common methods used in **plastics** technology to produce a wide variety of polymers and copolymers.

Benzene causes harmful effects on the bone marrow and can cause a decrease in red blood cells, leading to anemia. It can also cause excessive bleeding and can affect the immune system, increasing the chance for infection. It is considered a hazardous waste and must be disposed of properly.

So be careful . . . Because Rubber is NOT always rubber, but rather plastic.

How many people do you who know are allergic to Latex?

Why do they always ask that question on medical forms?

Remember . . . when you buy a new **vinyl** shower curtain how awful it smells? Those are the CHEMICALS OFF GASSING. And NO it does not go away, you simply get use to the stench. It is like a smoker, they have no idea how bad they STINK. You will be inhaling harmful toxins for months to come.

For more research on hidden plastics see the following:

DID YOU KNOW? on page 39 in [Cooking with Judy](#),

Indoor Air Quality on page 26 and **Vinyl Can Be Fatal** on page 36 in [Volume 2](#),
15 Worst Things in YOUR Lunch Box p 38 and **Memory Foam** on page 60 in [Volume 3](#),

BPA on page 50 in [Volume 4](#),

Even Slip Covers Can Be Dangerous To YOUR Health on page 10 in [Volume 6](#).