

What's in Period Products?

Timeline of Chemical Testing

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2002

USA - Devito & Schecter (published in [Environmental Health Perspectives](#))

Products Tested: 4 brands of tampons

Chemicals Detected: dioxins and furans

2005

USA - Archer (published in [Journal of Women's Health](#))

Products Tested: 7 brands of tampons

Chemicals Detected: dioxins and furans

2013

November

USA - Women's Voices for the Earth

(publication of [Chem Fatale: Potential Health Effects of Toxic Chemicals in Feminine Care Products](#))

2014

August

USA - [Women's Voices for the Earth](#)

Products Tested: 4 different Always brand pads for volatile organic compounds

1st of its kind testing of menstrual pads for volatile organic compounds emitted into the headspace around these products.

Chemicals Detected: styrene, chloromethane, chloroethane, chloroform, acetone, toluene.

2014

November

Hungary - [Tudatos Vásárlók Egyesülete](#)

(Conscious Consumers Association)

Products Tested: 4 brands of pads and 5 brands of tampons

Chemicals Detected: phthalates, triclosan and parabens

2015

July

Indonesia - [Indonesian Consumers Foundation \(YLKI\)](#)

Products Tested: 9 brands of pads and 6 brands of panty liners for the presence of chlorine.

Chemicals Detected: Chlorine

2016

March

France - [60 Million Consumers magazine](#)

Products Tested: 4 brands of pads, 4 brands of panty liners and 5 brands of tampons

Chemicals Detected: Organochlorine and pyrethroid pesticides, glyphosate, dioxins and halogenated organic compounds.

2016

October

France - [Dream Way Productions](#) (for film "[Tampon, Our Closet Enemy](#)")

Products Tested: 6 brands of tampons for plasticizer chemicals.

Chemicals Detected: phthalates, other plasticizers

2016

December

Switzerland - [Swiss Federal Food and Veterinary Office \(OSAV\)](#)

Products Tested: 8 brands of tampons, 8 brands of pads for dioxins, furans, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, phthalates and pesticides.

Chemicals Detected: Dioxins, furans, naphthalene, anthracene, benzo(a)pyrene, chrysene, aminomethylphosphonic acid (AMPA)

2017

May

China - Chai et.al. (published in [China Environmental Science](#))

Products Tested: pads

Chemicals Detected: phthalates

2017

July

S. Korea - [Korean Women's Environmental Network \(KWEN\)](#)

Products Tested: 10 brands of pads for volatile organic compounds

Chemicals Detected: Styrene, trichloroethylene, benzene, toluene, heptane, hexane and other VOCs

2017

September

S. Korea - Korea Food and Drug Administration (KFDA)

Products Tested: 641 pads and panty liners sold in S. Korea for 10 different volatile organic compounds (in response to significant public reaction to KWEN report)

Chemicals Detected: Styrene, benzene, dichloromethane, hexane, chloroform, trichloroethylene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene.

2018

April

USA - [Women's Voices for the Earth](#)

Products Tested: 6 brands of tampons (4 conventional brands containing rayon & 2 organic cotton brands) for VOCs

Chemicals Detected: Carbon disulfide, methylene chloride, methyl ethyl ketone, ethyl acetate, xylene, heptane, hexane, toluene.

2018

June

Sweden - [Swedish Chemicals Agency](#)

Products Tested: 7 brands of pads, 10 brands of panty liners, 10 brands of tampons and 8 brands of menstrual cups for a variety of chemicals of concern including pesticides, plasticizers, fragrances, siloxanes and other VOCs.

Chemicals Detected: Formaldehyde, dibutyl phthalate, N-ethyl-2-pyrrolidone, benzophenone 1,4-butanediol diglycidyl ether, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, Sodium dodecylbenzenesulphonate, Siloxanes (D4, D5 D6, D7 and D9).

2018

June

France - [French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety](#)

Products Tested: menstrual pads, panty liners, tampons and menstrual cups

Chemicals Detected: butylphenyl methylpropional, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) pesticides (glyphosate and its metabolite aminomethylphosphonic acid (AMPA), lindane, hexachlorobenzene) dioxins, furans, and Di-n-octylphthalate (DnOP).

2018

August

Denmark - [Danish Consumer Council \(THINK\)](#)

Products Tested: 7 menstrual cups for phthalates, carcinogenic nitrosamines, heavy metals and chlorinated paraffins.

Chemicals Detected: polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), naphthalene, diethyl phthalate, VOCs

2019

January

S. Korea/USA - Park et.al (published in [Reproductive Toxicology](#))

Products Tested: 11 pads sold in S. Korea for phthalates and VOCs. Investigation sponsored by SEVEN TV.

Chemicals Detected: Toluene, xylene, methylene chloride, phthalates

2019

March

France - [60 Million Consumers Magazine](#)

Products Tested: 7 brands of pads and 8 brands of tampons for pesticides, phthalates, dioxins and halogenated organic compounds.

Chemicals Detected: glyphosate/AMPA, phthalates, dioxins and halogenated organic compounds.

2019

March

S. Korea, Japan, Finland, Greece, USA - Park et.al. (published in [Reproductive Toxicology](#))

Products Tested: pads (and diapers)

Chemicals Detected: phthalates, methylene chloride, toluene, xylenes

2019

December

Japan, S. Korea, USA, UK, Australia Germany

Tang et.al. (published in [Environmental Science and Technology](#))

Products Tested: pads

Chemicals Detected: phthalates

2020

January

Belgium - Desmedt et.al (published in [Contact Dermatitis](#))

Products Tested: tampons, pads, panty liners

Chemicals Detected: fragrance allergens (hexyl cinnamal, benzyl salicylate, limonene, linalool, citronellal, geraniol, hydroxycitronellal)

2020

January

China - Gao et.al. (published in [Environmental Science & Technology](#))

Products Tested: pads (also douche, vulvar cleaning products)

Chemicals Detected: phthalates

2020

January

USA - Gao et.al. (published in [Environment International](#))

Products Tested: pads, panty liners tampons (also wipes, vaginal creams, vaginal sprays and powders)

Chemicals Detected: phthalates, parabens, bisphenols and triclocarban

2020

January

USA - Choy (reported in [Sierra magazine](#))

Products Tested: menstrual underwear

Chemicals Detected: PFAS, copper, zinc

2020

January

Belgium - [Belgian Federal Public Service](#)

Products Tested: tampons & pads

Chemicals Detected: phthalates, glyphosate, dioxins/furans, nonylphenol, methyl and chloromethylisothiazolinone