

THE ESTROGEN EFFECT



WHAT IS THE ESTROGEN EFFECT?

The Estrogen Effect refers to the way certain environmental toxins mimic or interfere with estrogen—the hormone that plays a key role in regulating development, reproduction, mood, and metabolism—especially during puberty.

These chemicals are called endocrine disruptors, and they can send fake hormonal signals, confusing your body and affecting both short- and long-term health.

WHERE ARE THESE CHEMICALS FOUND?

You might be surprised how many everyday products contain estrogen-mimicking chemicals:

- **Phthalates**, found in fragranced products like body sprays, lotions, candles, and plastic wrap, act like estrogen in the body and can disrupt natural hormone cycles.

WHEN EVERYDAY
CHEMICALS MESS
WITH YOUR
HORMONES



- **Parabens**, used as preservatives in makeup, shampoo, lotions, and deodorants, are easily absorbed through the skin and have been linked to hormone disruption and breast tissue changes.
- **BPA** (bisphenol A) is commonly found in plastic bottles, food containers, and canned food linings, where it can leach into food and mimic estrogen in the body.
- **PFAS**, or “forever chemicals,” show up in nonstick pans, stain-resistant furniture, and water-resistant clothing. These chemicals can accumulate in the body and interfere with hormonal balance and immune health.
- **Atrazine**, a pesticide often sprayed on non-organic produce like corn and leafy greens, has been linked to feminization in animals and potential hormone disruption in humans.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

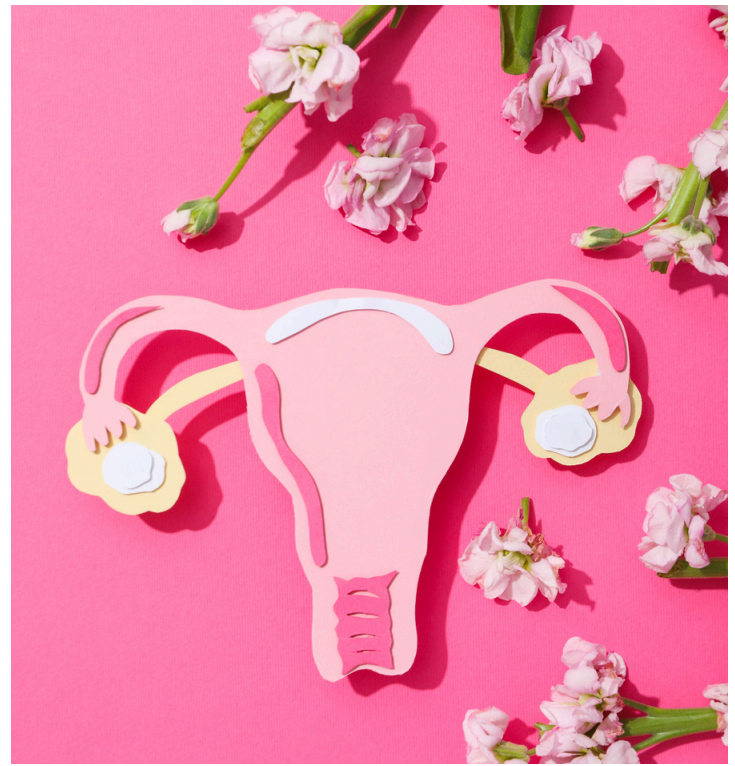
These chemicals don't just affect people—they harm the planet too.

- Many estrogen-mimicking toxins are petroleum-based, non-biodegradable, and end up in water systems.
- Studies have shown that they can alter the hormones of fish, frogs, and birds, reducing fertility and changing natural behaviors.
- PFAS and microplastics persist in the environment for decades or even centuries, polluting ecosystems and threatening biodiversity.

WHY IT MATTERS FOR YOUR HEALTH

Teens are especially at risk because their bodies are still developing. Exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals during puberty can:

- Trigger early puberty, especially in girls
- Disrupt menstrual cycles and fertility later in life
- Interfere with mood regulation, metabolism, and brain development
- Increase risk of breast cancer, endometriosis, and thyroid disorders



WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Use fragrance-free personal care products, or look for ones labeled “phthalate-free” and “paraben-free”
- Never heat food in plastic containers—use glass or ceramic instead
- Choose organic produce when possible, especially fruits and vegetables with thin skins
- Install a water filter that removes PFAS and other contaminants
- Switch to natural fabrics and period products without chemical coatings

BEACHES GO GREEN 2.0

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HEALTHY YOU



www.beachsgogreen.org

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Your hormones are your body's natural messengers—don't let toxic chemicals interfere with them. By understanding the Estrogen Effect and making informed choices, you can protect your body and the planet at the same time.