

Nap Mat FAQs

Last updated August 15, 2019

What's the problem?

Many foam nap mats, widely used at day care centers and preschools, are doused with flame retardants linked to obesity, reduced IQ, hormone disruption, cancer, and infertility. Some of the most common include triphenyl phosphate and chlorinated Tris, a carcinogen banned more than 30 years ago from children's pajamas. While some states have banned the use of these chemicals in children's nap mats in recent years, many centers still use older mats manufactured before new regulations were put in place and not all states have enacted this type of legislation.

Flame retardants don't stay put inside products; instead they escape into the indoor air and dust. Young children, who play on the floor and constantly put their hands in their mouths encounter much higher levels of flame retardants, and children are more susceptible to exposure because they ingest more air, food, and water per pound than adults do.

Where did our research come from?

The SVG Foundation worked with Forward Philanthropy to inform our research on the need for nap mat replacements. They have provided guidance to the Foundation and Employee Giving Committee and helped us understand the number of age 2-5 childcare slots in Vermont (~15,000). We also heavily relied on the scientific findings of [Toxic-Free Future](#).

Why SVG Foundation?

Our community grant program used to focus around getting kids outdoors to spend more time in nature. However, we realized that as leaders in environmentally safe cleaning products, SVG has the institutional knowledge and experience necessary to make decisions about products that use toxic chemicals. Working to remove these toxins from children's environments is a perfect extension of our mission and way to contribute to our community. Therefore, we have transitioned the program over the past few years to focus solely on the removal of nap mats, forming the [Nap Mat Exchange Program](#).

What mats do we use and why?

The only rest pads that meet the following standards:

- Organic Content Standard (OCS) certification using Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) certified organic cotton fabric
- Chemical Safety:
 - No Polyurethane Foam
 - No Vinyl/PVC/Phthalates
 - No Pesticides
 - No Perfluorinated Chemicals
 - No Glues/Adhesives
 - No Allergenic Materials
 - Meets flammability standards without flame retardant chemicals
- Proper Hygiene:
 - Waterproofing on top and bottom per GOTS approved criteria
- White and beige top and bottom colors
- Foldable and stackable
- 24" x 48" x 1.5" (approx.)

Logos: MADE SAFE, GREENGLASS, VERBODEN, ZERO TOXICS A+, Ethical Development Statement, MADE WITH GOTS CERTIFIED ORGANIC COTTON FABRIC

Dr. David Brady
www.DrDavidBrady.com
"Made by Amba craftsmen using organic natural materials with no applied chemicals of any kind... supportive, comfortable, and organic."

Jonathan Agre
MesaCure Foundation
Pediatric Cancer Prevention Initiative
"Childhood cancer is the number one cause of death by disease in the United States for children. 1 out of every 285 children will be diagnosed with cancer. We are very proud to engage in a partnership with Naturepedic... an industry leader creating amazing products and a sustainable business model."

Blue Care Foundation - Medical Advocates
www.BlueCare.org
"Chronic sleep restriction is associated with increased mortality and is now being studied as a possible cancer risk factor. Blue Care thanks Naturepedic for making healthier products without harmful chemicals."

Marisol Hemmingway
@marisolhemmingway
"There's nothing more important than a healthy sleep. Nobody removes toxic chemicals like Naturepedic."

We distribute [Naturepedic nap mats](#). As the industry leader in quality organic mattresses, Naturepedic has a host of certifications and are recommended by many organizations. This outstanding commitment to safety along with their excitement to work with us on our program made Naturepedic the best nap mat for the job!

Who is our distribution partner?

We will be partnering with Green Mountain Messenger to remove old mats from centers and distribute new non-toxic ones.

What does our current distribution look like?

In 2018, for the first time, we received applications from every county in Vermont. We distributed almost 850 new, non-toxic mats to 113 different centers throughout the state. We hope to continue this growth by building awareness throughout the state, ensuring that every center in need of new mats will receive them. Our program is particularly unique in that we not only provide mats to non-profit childcare centers, but we also provide them to for-profit centers as well. Through the assistance and distribution of our non-profit financial partner, the Vermont Community Loan Fund, we are able to ensure that every child in Vermont, regardless of the type of childcare they attend, will rest in safe surroundings.

Internal Info: The 828 mats we distributed to 113 centers cost about \$46,000.

What is our goal?

The SVG Foundation has a goal to replace every single toxic nap mat in the state of Vermont over the next five years. We distributed 828 mats last year, and have put our full focus into this program, raising our goal to over 3,000 mats for the 2019 cycle. While nap mats may not seem like a monumental issue, the simple act of replacing toxic mats can significantly reduce the chemical exposure of children and decrease toxins to safe levels. Based on our research and assistance from Forward Philanthropy, we know there are 14,862 childcare spots in Vermont for children ages 2-5. We have focused on this age range because children are most vulnerable to toxic chemicals from birth to age 5. We hope to replace all existing conventional mats with safe, non-toxic alternatives over the next five years.

How are centers chosen after applying?

We will be accepting eligible applications on a first-come, first-served basis. Because our goal is to replace every toxic nap mat in Vermont by 2025, all applicants will receive mats within 5 years.

How do we distribute mats to non-profit and for-profit centers?

The SVG Foundation has partnered with the Vermont Community Loan Fund in order to distribute mats to for-profit enterprises. For for-profits to receive funds/products from a foundation, they must have a fiscal sponsor who is "re-gifting" from the non-profit to the for-profit. The SVG Foundation issues the funds to VCLF, who then distributes to different for-profit centers.

When does the application cycle open and how can I apply?

The application will be available on the [SVG Foundation website](#), will open August 1, 2019 and close October 1, 2019.