



News Alert

Selecting Upholstered Furniture to Reduce Safety Risks of Open Flame Fires Without the Use of Hazardous Flame Retardants

[Today's homes burn more quickly than before](#), with consumers, in some cases, having only minutes to escape to avoid injury and death from toxic gases and flames. Everyone should arm themselves with an escape plan to evacuate faster, but a wise selection of indoor furnishings to reduce indoor fuel loads for open flame fires can make a difference. Upholstered furniture is the first item ignited in a home. [Through rigorous research](#), the [Chemical Insights Research Institute \(CIRI\)](#) of [UL Research Institutes](#) has identified that selection of furniture that contains a fire barrier to encapsulate foam cushions is an easy and direct way to prevent and delay the flaming ignition of upholstered furniture without the use of chemical flame retardants that can themselves pose human health risks. This selection of furniture can provide additional time for occupants to evacuate and for first responders to arrive and extinguish the fire, therefore saving lives.

This Fire Safety Month, consumers are encouraged to purchase furniture with fire barriers and without added flame retardants. Interior design and furniture industry professionals can learn how to encourage and protect consumer safety and health through CIRI's "[Specifying Residential Upholstered Furniture to Safeguard Human Health and Well-Being: A Toolkit for Reducing Fire and Chemical Risks.](#)" This toolkit upskills professionals about why fire and chemical safety must be considered when selecting furniture, how to specify a fire barrier and meaningful research on flame retardant exposure and furniture flammability. Visit CIRI's [Flame Retardants, Furniture Flammability and Human Health page](#) for more actionable insights.



Explore the Full Toolkit

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