

Text description for videos on our [“The case for a national Chemicals Agency report” page](#)

All of the videos contain images and headlines recreated from real newspaper stories from years ago. They show how initially a certain chemical or group of chemicals was found to have excellent uses to households and businesses, but later found to cause devastating health and environmental issues.

Inhaling asbestos video

Headline for an old fashioned newspaper advert: Fifty million people in Britain are protected by asbestos, an indispensable industrial material. This is accompanied by an image showing a happy family sitting in lounge at home, in sepia tones.

Headlines from modern times fly in saying:

Classroom asbestos kills ten thousand pupils and teachers in four decades – as fears raised 21 thousand UK schools are still riddled with deadly toxic fibres. Figures estimate a staggering number of deaths caused between 1980 and 2017;

Six of my family taken by asbestos;

Unacceptable and alarming – deteriorating school buildings prompt urgent warnings.

Our warning appears saying “Let’s not repeat the past mistakes, tell UK local politicians we need a Chemicals Agency. The RSC logo and a link to our webpage then appears: [rsc.li/agency](https://www.rsc.li/agency).”

Health risks of lead pipes

Headline for an old fashioned newspaper advert: Lead helps to guard your health! It is long lasting! Giving you the best sanitation! No corrosion! There is an image of plumbing pipes and a smiling male and female couple in black and white.

Headlines from modern times fly in saying:

School children exposed to drinking water containing lead. Test results from tap water obtained by [i] show the toxic metal is still being found at level well above the standard of 10 micrograms per litre despite a ban on lead pipes in 1970;

Millions of UK residents face poisoning risk from lead water pipes – replacement of potentially toxic plumbing is complicated by responsibility being shared between utilities and homeowners;

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Health risks of PFAS forever chemicals

Headline for an old fashioned newspaper advert: Don't get stuck in the kitchen! Nothing beats a "forever pan". Image of a frying pan saying "amazing PFAS technology"

Headlines from modern times fly in saying:

"Forever chemical" exposure linked to higher cancer odds in women – new research finds evidence that exposure to PFAS and phenols increased odds of certain "hormonally driven" cancers for women;

"Forever chemicals" called PFAS show up in your food, clothes and home – These toxic chemicals are so common in consumer products and manufacturing that they're everywhere including inside our bodies;

EPA puts two NEW "forever chemicals" on its danger list – and they're hundreds of popular cookware and waterproof clothes. Two "forever chemicals" found in cookware are listed as hazardous. They seep into soil and water causing illness and fertility problems.

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DDT pesticide video

Headline for an old fashioned newspaper advert: A black and white image of a grinning child is covered with text saying "no flies on me, thanks to DDT". The advert states "Easy and safe to use! The amazing DDT ingredient stays on walls, floors, doorways to keep on killing flies for weeks! To use wonderful DDT safely and effectively in your home, use only a well known and reliable insecticide. Ask for it in your local store today."

Headlines from modern times fly in saying:

Banned pesticide DDT still damaging ecosystems fifty years after it was sprayed. "Yesterday's environmental crisis in 1950s through 1970s remains today's problem", says Dr. Josh Kurek;

DDT exposure raises ALL women's risks of breast cancer forty years later – and those who came into contact with the toxic pesticide as babies will get the disease earlier, study suggests;

DDT and other banned chemicals pose threat to vulnerable dolphins on Great Barrier Reef – scientist find increasing levels of harmful chemicals causing health issues and links to mass mortality events.

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