



Canned food without BPA? Let's vote with our pocketbooks.

by Phyllis Wheeler ~ October 21st, 2010.



A number of canned food companies are taking steps to remove BPA from their tin can linings. It's not that the FDA told them to; they are just doing it because of market pressures. BPA, you are aware, is the toxic false estrogen that's been implicated in plenty of studies. As a plastics additive, it is common in our environment. Meanwhile the FDA is studying the question of whether to ban it, but not doing anything.

Armed with this new information about which companies are working on getting rid of BPA, shoppers like you and me can make a difference! Here's our new ammunition: a report for investors that takes a look at the voluntary move away from BPA in the canned food industry. The 2010 report is coauthored by Green Century Capital Management and a shareholder advocacy group called **As You Sow**.

The report, *Seeking Safer Packaging 2010*, tallies the results of questionnaires sent to food companies, and gives each company a grade. To get an A, a company has to be taking steps to test materials and eliminate use of BPA, and also has to have a time table for getting rid of it.

I don't know about you, but I want to support the companies that are making efforts in this area. Here is who got the A grades:

- Hain Celestial, whose brands include Health Valley, Earth's Best, and Westbrae Natural
- ConAgra, which owns brands such as Chef Boyardee, Hunt's and Healthy Choice
- H.J. Heinz

And the ones who are doing nothing at all? These companies got F's:

- Coca-Cola
- Del Monte
- Kraft
- Unilever
- Kroger
- Safeway
- Supervalu
- Wal-Mart

And there are the ones who refused to fill out the questionnaire, which I would like to avoid too. They are:

- Delhaize Group
- Hershey
- Hormel
- Sysco