



Safer Chemicals Healthy Families

A national campaign calling for stronger federal standards on toxic chemicals



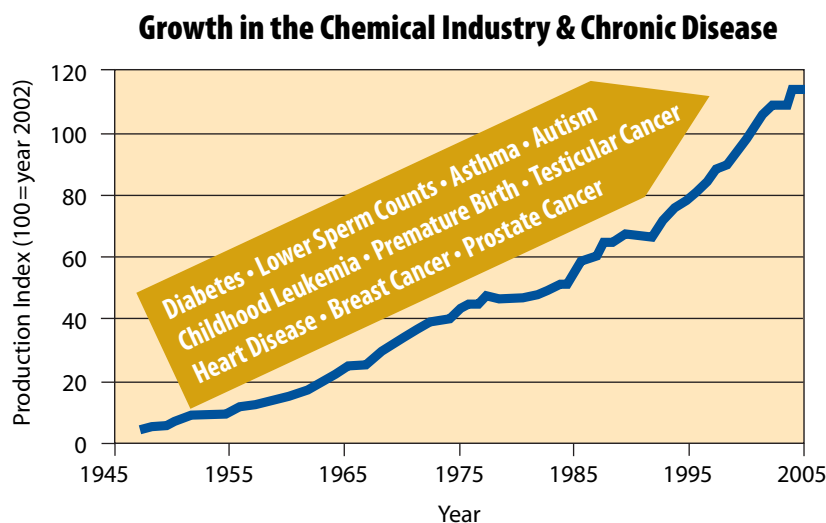
It's time for common sense limits on toxic chemicals

Good health is precious, and we invest significant time and money to protect it. Yet, no matter how careful we are, it's getting hard to avoid a serious threat to our health: toxic chemicals. From baby bottles made with bisphenol A to carpets containing formaldehyde, dangerous chemicals are in our homes, places of work, and the products we use every day. Every week, new science is linking toxic chemicals to increases in serious health problems among Americans.

While the rates of asthma, diabetes, childhood cancers, infertility, and learning and behavioral disorders keep going up, the federal system that should protect us from health-harming chemicals hasn't changed in 34 years. The Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)—intended to give the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the power to regulate toxic chemicals—just doesn't work.

Since TSCA was passed in 1976, the EPA has required testing on just over 200 of the 62,000 chemicals that were "grandfathered" in under the law. TSCA does not require chemical companies to prove that the chemicals they make are safe before they end up in products. In fact, manufacturers are allowed to keep basic safety information secret—making it hard for the average consumer to make informed choices at the checkout stand.

Now, we have the chance to fix this problem—and to protect future generations from serious harm. Bombarded with disturbing news stories and scientific studies, Americans from all walks of life have started to demand change. The time has come to ask Congress to reform TSCA—and start putting common sense limits on harmful chemicals.



How our lax chemical rules made Hurricane Katrina even worse



American businesses are changing how they use chemicals

STAPLES. Kaiser Permanente. Hewlett-Packard. Hospira. True Textiles. Catholic Healthcare West. Seventh Generation. Method. Businesses are redesigning their products and encouraging their suppliers to move away from the use of dangerous chemicals.

“We’ve taken a cautious approach to materials, meaning that where there is credible evidence that a material we’re using may result in environmental or public health harm, we should strive to replace it with safer alternatives.”

—Kathy Gerwig, Kaiser Permanente

FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) supplied Hurricane Katrina survivors with trailers lined with plywood imported from China. The plywood was made with adhesives that release large amounts of formaldehyde, a chemical known to cause cancer, asthma attacks, and other breathing problems, and is suspected of harming the nervous and immune systems.

Unlike the U.S., China, the European Union, and Japan have banned the type of toxic plywood used in the FEMA trailers. China manufactures a safer, low-formaldehyde version to sell to those countries, but continues to make the cheaper, high-formaldehyde version for sale in the U.S. When petitioned to take action to control the problem, the EPA said it doesn’t have the authority to act under TSCA.

Formaldehyde in FEMA trailers is but one example of the kind of stories we will continue to hear unless the U.S. updates its policies to keep our citizens safe and to promote the innovation and green industries we need to stay competitive in the global marketplace.

“Made in USA should be a guarantee, not a warning.”

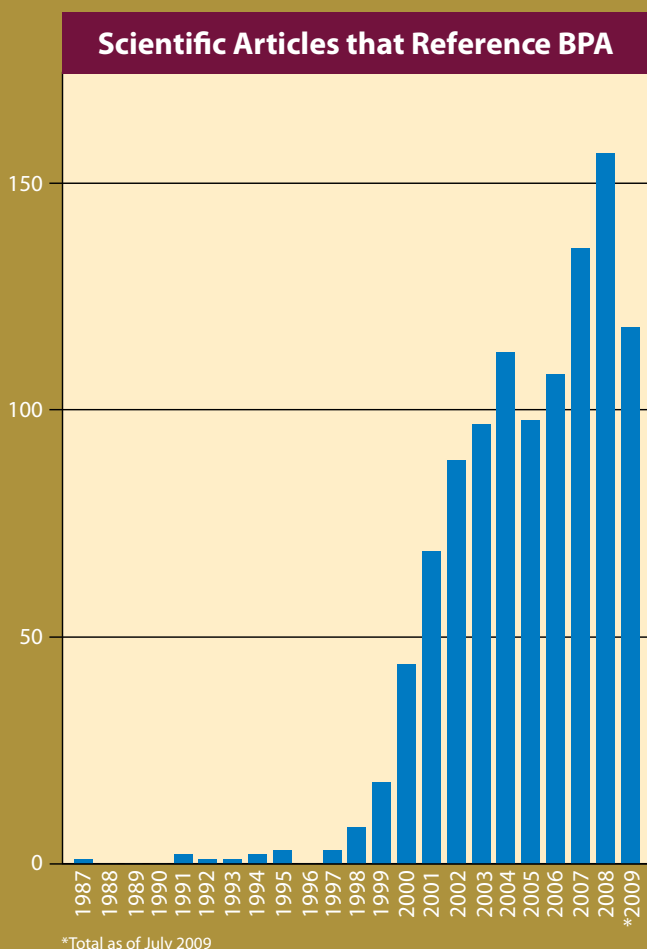
Michael Wright,
United Steelworkers,
quoting consumer advocate
Esther Peterson

How do we know that the Toxic Substances Control Act, our national chemical policy, needs to be fixed?

Look at the numbers:

Since **1976** when TSCA was passed, more than **80,000** different chemicals have been produced and used in the United States. In these **34** years, EPA has required testing on just **over 200** of the **62,000** chemicals “grandfathered” in under the law. Only **5** chemicals have been restricted. EPA tried to use TSCA to restrict asbestos **19** years ago and failed. It hasn’t tried since.

Science changes but regulations haven’t kept up: A BPA case study



For 33 years, TSCA has stayed the same. But the science on how chemicals can cause harm has changed dramatically. Look at Bisphenol A: Ten years ago, there were very few studies on this chemical used to make baby bottles, plastic food and beverage containers, and the linings of canned food, paper receipts, and baby food jars. Over the last decade, an explosion of new research has linked BPA to cancer, heart disease, obesity, infertility, and hyperactivity. Motivated by public concern over this new science, states, cities, retailers, and manufacturers are doing what EPA can’t—taking action to protect us from this dangerous chemical.



What we want

Congress can create the foundation for a sound and comprehensive chemicals policy that protects public health and the environment; we applaud the leadership of Senator Frank Lautenberg and Representative Bobby Rush as Congress reforms TSCA. To be effective, TSCA reform must:

1. Take immediate action on the most dangerous chemicals

Persistent, bioaccumulative toxic chemicals build up in our bodies and threaten our health. Any such chemical to which people could be exposed should be phased out of commerce. Exposure to other toxic chemicals that we know can cause serious health problems, such as formaldehyde, that have already been extensively studied should be reduced. Green chemistry research should be expanded, and safer chemicals favored over those with known health hazards.

2. Require basic information to identify chemicals of concern

Chemical manufacturers should be held responsible for the safety of their products and should be required to provide full information on the health and environmental hazards associated with their chemicals, how they are used, and the ways that the public or workers could be exposed. The public, workers, and businesses should have access to information about the safety of chemicals.

3. Use the best science to protect all people and vulnerable groups

Chemicals should meet a standard of safety for all people, including children, pregnant women, and workers. The extra burden of toxic chemical exposure on people of color, low-income, and indigenous communities must be reduced and more studies must be done to detect which chemicals are present in our bodies. The EPA should adopt the recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences on how to better assess risks from chemicals. And regulators should expand the development and use of information gleaned from "biomonitoring," the science of detecting human chemical contamination, to inform and motivate efforts to reduce such exposures.

What People are Saying



"Smarter regulations on toxic chemicals will improve American health, lower health care costs, and restore confidence in American-made products."

Andy Igrejas,
National Campaign Director



"I trusted that the government and its various agencies were going to keep our children safe. Boy, was I wrong."

Douglas Abrams, California



"The problem is what we don't know we are being exposed to. It is time for us to come together and demand that our health, our safety, our environment comes first."

Kristen Hayes-Yearick,
Pennsylvania



"Our children should not be used as guinea pigs. It's time to update the law to protect them."

Senator Frank Lautenberg
(D-NJ)



"Congress needs to reform TSCA because, as you'll discover when you take a look at the ingredients lists in your bathroom and kitchen cabinets, you can't shop your way out of exposure to toxic chemicals, especially since manufacturers aren't required to tell you what's in their products in the first place."

Natieka Samuels,
Washington, D.C.



Add your voice to the millions who are asking for common sense limits on toxic chemicals. Join us today!

saferchemicals.org | facebook.com/saferchemicals | saferchemicals@saferchemicals.org

Who we are

Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families is a coalition of diverse groups united by their common concern about toxic chemicals in our homes, places of work, and products we use every day.

Public Health Organizations

Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization
Breast Cancer Fund
Cancer Center Prevention Los Angeles
Endometriosis Association of America
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition
National Center for Environmental Health Strategies
National Disease Clusters Alliance
National Nail Salon Alliance
National Pediculosis Association
Rachel's Friends Breast Cancer Coalition
Women's Cancer Action
Women's Community Cancer Project
Women's Health & Environmental Network

Health Care Providers/Research Institutions

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
American Nurses Association
DrGreene.com
Health Care Without Harm
Mount Sinai Children's Environmental Health Center
Nurses for Global Health
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Physicians for Social Responsibility – Los Angeles
Physicians for Social Responsibility – Tampa Bay
Science and Environmental Health Network
Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility
Washington State Association of Occupational Health Nurses
Washington State Nurses Association
Yale School of Medicine, Environmental Health Group

Learning and Developmental Disabilities Organizations

American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
American Network of Community Options and Resources
Association for Children's Mental Health
The Arc of Massachusetts
The Autism Society
Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association
Institute of Neurotoxicology & Neurological Disorders
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Learning Disabilities Association of Maine
Learning Disabilities Association of Michigan's Healthy Children Project
Learning Disabilities Association of Minnesota
Learning Disabilities Association of New York State
Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health

National Environmental Organizations

Center for International Environmental Law
Clean Water Action
Commonweal
EarthJustice
Environmental Defense Fund

Environmental Health Fund
Environmental Law and Policy Center
Greenpeace
Jean Michel Cousteau Ocean Futures Society
Natural Resources Defense Council
North American Hazardous Materials Management Association
Pesticide Action Network of North America
Sierra Club National Toxics Committee
Union of Concerned Scientists
US Public Interest Research Group

Environmental Justice Organizations

Alaska Community Action on Toxics
Center For Health and Environmental Justice
Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice
Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota
For a Better Bronx
Galveston Baykeeper
GHASP/Mothers for Clean Air
Indigenous Environmental Network
Just Transition Alliance
The Just Green Partnership
REACT – Rubbertown Emergency ACTION
UPROSE (United Puerto Rican Organization of Sunset Park)
Voices for Earth Justice
WE ACT for Environmental Justice

Parent Organizations

EcoMom Alliance
Healthy Child Healthy World
Healthy Family, Healthy World
Healthy Kids Info
Moms Rising
National Green Schools Coalition
Parents for Nontoxic Alternatives

Reproductive Health Organizations

Asian Communities for Reproductive Justice
Association for Reproductive Health Professionals
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
Reproductive Health Technologies Project

State Advocacy and Community Organizations

Action for Children North Carolina (NC)
Alaska Community Action on Toxics (AK)
Allergy Kids Foundation (CO)
Alliance for a Clean and Healthy Maine (ME)
Alliance for a Clean and Healthy Vermont (VT)
Alliance for Sustainability (MN)
Basel Action Network (WA)
Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT) (MA)
California Healthy Nail Salon Cooperative (CA)



Center for Environmental Health (CA)
Chehalis River Council (WA)
Clean New York (NY)
Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut (CT)
Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition (WA)
Earthology Institute (WI)
Earth Ministry (WA)
Earthroze Institute (FL)
East Michigan Environmental Action Council (MI)
Ecology Center (MI)
Environment California (CA)
Environment Illinois (IL)
Environment Health Strategy Center (ME)
Families Against Cancer and Toxics (AZ)
Florida Public Interest Research Group (FL)
Glynn Environmental Coalition (GA)
GreenCAPE (MA)
Hilltown Anti-Herbicide Coalition (MA)
Indiana Toxics Action Project (IN)
Kentucky Environmental Foundation (KY)
Kids for Saving Earth (MN)
LocalMotionGreen (MI)
Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington State (WA)
Maine Association of Certified Professional Midwives (ME)
Maine League of Conservation Voters (ME)
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (ME)
Maine Parent Teacher Association (ME)
Maine People's Alliance (ME)
Maine Women's Lobby (ME)
Maryland Public Interest Research Group (MD)
Massachusetts Parent Teacher Association (MA)
Mercury Awareness Team of Washington (WA)
Michigan Environmental Council (MI)
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MN)
Minnesota Pesticide Awareness (MN)
Minnesota Public Interest Research Group (MN)
National Resources Council of Maine (ME)
Neighbors for Clean Air (OH)
New York City Environmental Justice Alliance (NY)
North Carolina Conservation Network (NC)
Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides (OR)
Olympic Environmental Council (WA)
Oregon Center for Environmental Health (OR)
Oregon Environmental Council (OR)
PAWS (WA)
Preventing Harm Minnesota (MN)
Projects for Environmental Health, Knowledge & Action, Inc.
(NJ)
Project Safeyard (CO)
Rainier Audubon Society (WA)
River Network (OR)
Safer States
Seattle Tilth (WA)
Sierra Club Connecticut Chapter (CT)
Sustainable Sudbury (MA)
Take Back the Air (MN)
Toxic Free North Carolina (NC)
Toxics Action Center (MA)
Washington Public Interest Research Group (WA)
Washington Toxics Coalition (WA)
Women for a Healthy Environment (PA)

Women's Environmental Institute (MN)
Women's Lobby of Colorado (CO)
Women's Voices for the Earth (MT)
World Team Now (CA)

Businesses / Analysts

Babies 411 LLC
Buttercup Naturals LLC
Carmichael Lynch
Catholic Healthcare West
Chez Sven Bed & Breakfast
Clean Production Action
Creative Health Connections
Dapple Baby
DriftAwaySoap
Duck Duck Green
EcoKlenz
Ely Organics
Fezal Naturally LLC
Fire Belly Lawn Care
Grace Naturals
Green Age
Green Depot
Green Maid, Inc.
GreenSistah Eco Consultants
Greener Country
The Green Stork
Healthy Building Network
Healthy Planet Fundraising
Helping You Live a Toxin Free Life
IceStone LLC
Informed Green Solutions, Inc.
Laro Baby
Maid Naturally
Melaleuca – the Wilderness Company
MyEARTH360.com
Naturepedic
Navan Foods: The Allergy Free Food Shop
New Harmony Boutique
Organic Valley
PioMu Kids & Toys
Q Collection
Quality of Life
Seventh Generation
Simply Toddler LLC
Smart Green Media LLC
The Soft Landing LLC
SUST
Sustain LA
Sustainability Associates
Sound Earth
Stonyfield Farm
Toxic Baby
Toxic Justice
Zoe Organics
1-800-GO-VAPOR.com

