



SB 258 (Lara): The Cleaning Product Right to Know Act of 2017

Today's consumers and businesses use a vast array of different cleaning products, including detergents, glass cleaners, carpet cleaners, stain removers, air fresheners, all-purpose cleaners and more. We are all exposed to the chemicals in those cleaning products every day, and workers are the most highly exposed. Yet there are no federal or state laws requiring the disclosure of most ingredients in these products. More and more, consumers and workers are demanding the right to know what is in their products.

What SB 258 Would Do

SB 258 would provide consumers and workers the ingredient information they need in a manner that is workable for industry. The bill would:

- Require manufacturers of both consumer and institutional cleaning products to disclose ingredients in their products on the product label and provide additional ingredient information on their website.
- Require, for the first time ever, disclosure of individual chemicals included within "fragrance" in cleaning products. This is particularly important given that the majority of cleaning products include fragrance mixtures and sometimes allergens and chemicals linked to short and long term adverse health effects can hide under that umbrella term.
- Allow manufacturers to protect some ingredients and mixtures as confidential business information (CBI). However, chemicals will NOT be eligible for CBI protection if they appear on any of 22 authoritative lists of chemicals of concern to human health and the environment (identified by the CA Department of Toxic Substances Control) or the European Union list of fragrance allergens.

Consumers Have the Right To Know What Is In their Cleaning Products

- Ingredient disclosure on product labels is mandatory for food, retail cosmetics and drugs – but not for cleaning products.
- The lack of mandatory ingredient disclosure leaves consumers in the dark when they attempt to purchase the right cleaning products for themselves and their families.
- A January 2017 poll showed 78% of Californians support state legislation requiring cleaning product ingredient disclosure.¹

Some Ingredients in Cleaners Are Linked to Serious Health Concerns

- Some ingredients found in cleaners have been linked to acute health problems – rashes, allergies and respiratory harm– as well as chronic health concerns like asthma, reproductive and developmental toxicity, and cancer, including breast cancer.^{2,3,4}
- Scientific studies have shown that chemicals found in cleaning products have been detected in urine, breast milk, and blood – including the umbilical cord blood of newborns.^{5,6,7}
- Children born to women who held cleaning jobs while pregnant have an elevated risk of birth defects, according to a 2010 study by scientists from the New York State Department of Health.⁸
- Fumes from some cleaning products can induce asthma in otherwise healthy individuals and exacerbate asthma in people who already have the disease.^{9,10}
- According to the U.S. EPA, cleaning products contribute to concentrations of many common pollutants that are 2 to 5 times higher inside homes than outside.¹¹
- Unsafe chemicals in cleaning products can also pollute the environment when sprayed in the air or washed down the drain. In fact, the United States Geological Survey found residual chemicals from

laundry detergents in around 70% of North American streams despite going through sewage treatment plants.¹²

Disproportionate Impact on Workers, Women, and People of Color

- Workers such as janitors, maids and housekeepers are exposed to the chemicals in cleaning products every time they go to work. This can mean 40 hours or more of exposure to unknown, potentially harmful chemicals every week.
- About half of the nation's janitors and two thirds (65%) of maids and housekeepers are Latino or African American.
- Women account for 9 out of 10 maids and housekeepers.¹³

The Time is Now for Ingredient Transparency

- Consumers and workers have a right to know what is in the products we purchase and bring into our homes or work around all day.
- While some major manufacturers have voluntarily moved toward more disclosure, many cleaning product labels still do not give consumers sufficient ingredient information to make informed decisions about which products are safest for their family.
- It is time to level the playing field for all manufacturers and ensure ALL consumers and workers have the information they need to keep their homes and workplaces clean AND make the best decision for their families' health.

Vote Yes on SB 258!

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¹ Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (FM3) conducted the poll of 1,000 registered California voters from January 15-19, 2017.

² Zock et al. (2007). The Use of Household Cleaning Sprays and Adult Asthma: An International Longitudinal Study. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med*. 176(8):735-41. Available online: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17585104. Accessed 8/21/17.

³ Environmental Working Group (2012). www.ewg.org/guides/cleaners/content/cleaners_and_health

⁴ <https://www.bccpp.org/resource/cleaning-products/>. Accessed 8/21/17.

⁵ CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2009). Fourth National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Available online: <http://www.cdc.gov/exposurereport/>. Accessed November 24, 2015.

⁶ Allmyr et al. (2006). Triclosan in plasma and milk from Swedish nursing mothers and their exposure via personal care products. *Sci Total Environ*. 372(1): 87-93. Available online: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17007908. Accessed November 24, 2015.

⁷ Environmental Working Group (2009). Pollution in Minority Newborns: Executive Summary. Available online: www.ewg.org/research/minority-cord-blood-report/executive-summary. Accessed November 24, 2015.

⁸ Herdt-Losavio et al. (2010). www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20029025

⁹ <https://archive.cdph.ca.gov/programs/ohsep/Documents/WRA-CleaningProd.pdf>. Accessed 8/21/17.

¹⁰ <https://archive.cdph.ca.gov/programs/ohsep/Pages/class.aspx> (accessed 8/21/17)

¹¹ Environmental Protection Agency (2012). www.epa.gov/iaq/voc.html. Accessed 8/21/17.

¹² Kolpin, DW et.al. (2002) Pharmaceuticals, Hormones, and other organic wastewater contaminants in U.S. streams 1999-2000: A national reconnaissance. *Environmental Science and Technology*, 36 (6): 1202-122.

¹³ Bureau of Labor Statistics (2014). Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey. Available online: www.bls.gov/cps/cpsaat11.htm. Accessed November 24, 2015.