The Mind the Store Campaign

Transforming the Retail Marketplace to Safer Chemicals and Healthier Products

Mike Schade, Mind the Store Campaign Director
Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families
Tell America’s top retailers: We need you to step up on toxic chemicals!

Amazon.com bans deadly paint strippers, signaling growing trend in retail sector

Advocates call on EPA to finalize proposed ban, protect Americans from toxic products

Posted Dec 3, 2018

Report: Restaurant Chains Lag on Toxic Chemicals, while 21 Retailers Make Progress to Protect Consumers

Posted Nov 14, 2018

Amazon announces new policy to restrict toxic chemicals

Posted Oct 10, 2018

Who’s Minding the Store?
A report card on retailer actions to eliminate toxic chemicals

For retailers

Latest updates

Hazardous 100+

Top Retailers

How you can help
Benchmarking retailers on their chemical policies (and lack there-of)

Walmart Is First, Amazon Is Worst in New Ranking on Chemicals

by Lauren Coleman-Lochner

November 15, 2016 — 12:00 PM EST  Updated on November 15, 2016 — 4:22 PM EST
**Walmart strengthens sustainable chemistry commitment, reports progress in safer product formulation**

Retailer sets new goal for 10 percent priority chemical reduction by 2022

**Harmful chemicals reduction consumer goods**

Costco Wholesale is committed to protecting consumer and environmental health and safety, through establishing and developing products, and processes, so they are safer, healthier, and more sustainable.

Costco's Chemical Management Policy goes beyond the boundaries of regulatory compliance from the product manufacturing process, and from consumer use and disposal, in an effort to reduce potential chemical harm to humans and to the environment.

**CVS Health takes major step to address chemicals of consumer concern**

Chemical Strategic

At The Home Depot®, we recognize the responsibility we have for the environmental impact of our organization, and that our biggest impact is the products we sell. In partnership with suppliers throughout the supply chain, The Home Depot is committed to offering products that are safe for the environment.

With our encouragement, our suppliers have been investing in developing environmentally innovative products. The Home Depot supports the work of the Green Chemistry & Commerce Council (GC3) through annual membership and participation in the Retail Leadership Council of the GC3, and we participated in developing the GC3's joint statement on using Green Chemistry and Safer Alternatives to Advance Sustainable Products. We and our suppliers also partner with respected third-party certification organizations and environmental non-profits that guide the home improvement industry toward safer chemical ingredient use. The Home Depot is committed to continuing the drive toward minimizing the environmental impact of the products we sell.

**Chemical management statement**

Best Buy is committed to building a thriving business, while ensuring we are a good steward of the environment and supporting the responsible use of chemicals in compliance with all laws and regulations. Beyond compliance, we created a chemical management program to systematically evaluate and prioritize efforts to address chemical risks and opportunities. We seek to reduce the use of chemicals, phase out chemicals of concern, improve the general management of chemicals. Our efforts focus on where we can make the greatest impact.

- **Within our corporate, retail, service and distribution operations,** Best Buy actively looks for opportunities to reduce the use of chemicals. Whenever possible, we work to transition to safer alternatives, with a preference for EPA Safer Choice chemicals.

- **For our private label and direct import products,** we outline supplier requirements regarding the use of chemicals in products as well as those used in the manufacturing process. Best Buy maintains a detailed Restricted Substance List (RSL), which specifies chemicals restricted based upon regulations or known hazards and chemicals suppliers are required to reportusage to us.
Who’s Minding the Store?

2018 report card on retailer actions to eliminate toxic chemicals

SELECT A RETAILER   TAKE ACTION
Challenging a larger list of retailers to “Mind the Store” – twelve new retailers added for 2018

- **Apparel store**
  - Nordstrom

- **Dollar Store chain**
  - 99 Cents Only

- **Grocery stores**
  - Aldi (Aldi Sud)
  - Loblaws
  - Publix
  - Sobeys

- **Restaurant / fast food chains**
  - McDonalds
  - Panera Bread
  - Restaurant Brands International (Burger King, Popeyes, Tim Hortons)
  - Starbucks
  - Subway
  - Yum! Brands (KFC, Pizza Hut, Taco Bell)
Forty companies evaluated in twelve key retail sectors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Consumer Sector</th>
<th>Retailers Evaluated in Who's Mind Ing the Store</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apparel</td>
<td>Amazon, Kohl's, Macy's, Nordstrom, Target, TJX, Walmart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baby/Children</td>
<td>99 Cents Only, Amazon, buybuy BABY (Bed Bath &amp; Beyond), Costco, Dollar General, Dollar Tree, Target, Walmart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beauty &amp; Personal Care</td>
<td>99 Cents Only, Ahold Delhaize (Food Lion, Stop &amp; Shop, Giant, and Hannaford), Albertsons, Aldi US, Amazon, Costco, CVS Health, Dollar General, Dollar Tree, Kohl’s, Kroger, Loblaws, Macy’s, Nordstrom, Publix, Rite Aid, Sally Beauty, Sephora, Sobeys, Target, Trader Joe’s, Ulta, Walgreens, Walmart, Whole Foods Market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department Store</td>
<td>Kohl’s, Macy’s, Nordstrom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dollar Store</td>
<td>99 Cents Only, Dollar General, Dollar Tree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drugstore</td>
<td>Amazon, Costco, CVS, Rite Aid, Target, Walgreens, Walmart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronics</td>
<td>Amazon, Apple, Best Buy, Costco, Kohl’s, Macy’s, Office Depot, Staples, Target, Walmart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture/Home Goods</td>
<td>Amazon, Bed Bath &amp; Beyond, Costco, H &amp; M, Kohl’s, Macy’s, Target, TJX, Walmart, Target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groceries</td>
<td>99 Cents Only, Ahold Delhaize (Food Lion, Stop &amp; Shop, Giant, and Hannaford), Albertsons, Aldi US, Amazon, Costco, CVS Health, Dollar General, Dollar Tree, Kroger, Loblaws, Publix, Rite Aid, Sobeys, Target, Trader Joe’s, Walgreens, Walmart, Whole Foods Market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Improvement</td>
<td>Ace Hardware, Amazon, The Home Depot, Lowe’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>Amazon, Office Depot, Staples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restaurant/Fast Food</td>
<td>McDonald’s, Panera Bread, Restaurant Brands International (Burger King, Popeyes, Tim Hortons), Starbucks, Subway, Yum! Brands (KFC, Pizza Hut, Taco Bell)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Brief summary of our approach

- Evaluation of retailers based on publicly available information
- 14 criteria, harmonized with Chemical Footprint Project (CFP)
- 135 possible number points and corresponding letter grades
- Draft scores shared with companies in advance
Wal-Mart Stores (Walmart and Sam’s Club) earned a grade of A−, the same letter grade as it did in 2017, scoring 93.25 out of 133 possible points, the third highest score of any retailer evaluated. In 2018, Walmart announced it was phasing out the sale of methylene chloride- and NIOSH-listed paint strippers in all of its stores in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Central America and on walmart.com, becoming the fourth major retailer to take action on these harmful chemicals. The company has yet to report on other progress in implementing its policy in 2018 but has indicated it plans to share a progress update later this year. Last year, the company made significant progress in both implementing and expanding its chemicals policy, which includes a greater focus on the larger list of 2,700 chemicals. This list grew by adding two new authoritative lists of fragrance chemicals of concern.

In 2017, Walmart stated a new goal: by 2022, Walmart aims to reduce its consumables chemical footprint for Walmart U.S. and Sam’s Club U.S. stores by 10 percent. Walmart has reduced the number of priority chemicals by 45 percent. Overall, the company and Sam’s Club have a written safer chemicals policy, known as the Sustainable Chemistry Policy, along with an Implementation Guide for Suppliers. The policy contains three primary pillars: Transparency, Advancing Safer Formulation, and Advancing our Assortment. The policy was updated and expanded in 2017 with new commitments and public goals, and lists the company’s sustainable chemistry principles which includes the 12 principles of green chemistry. The company states that by 2022, Walmart aims to reduce its consumables chemical footprint for Walmart U.S. and Sam’s Club U.S. stores by 10 percent, which translates to a reduction of toxic chemicals by 55 million pounds.

Walmart has developed a list of 16 “high priority” chemicals and more than 2,700 “priority” chemicals of concern that it is challenging suppliers to reduce and eliminate. The policy now includes a greater focus on the larger list of 2,700 chemicals, and in 2017 the company expanded the list of chemicals to which its policy applies by adding two new lists of fragrance chemicals of concern. The
## Retailers graded B- to A+

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Retailer</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apple</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>106.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>95.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walmart</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>93.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IKEA</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>87.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whole Foods Market</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>83.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVS</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>82.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rite Aid</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>81.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walgreens</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>79.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Depot</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aldi</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Retailers graded F
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Retailer</th>
<th>Final Score</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>99 Cents Only</td>
<td>0 Pts. F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ace Hardware</td>
<td>0 Pts. F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ahold Delhaize</td>
<td>11.5 Pts. F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albertsons</td>
<td>45.25 Pts. C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aldi</td>
<td>63 Pts. B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amazon</td>
<td>51.75 Pts. C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apple</td>
<td>106.25 Pts. A+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Buy</td>
<td>54.25 Pts. C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buy Buy Baby</td>
<td>36.5 Pts. D+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Five Key Findings
1) Retailers continue to drive toxic chemicals out of consumer products

- **Eleven** retailers ban methylene chloride & NMP in paint strippers, including Lowe’s, Home Depot, Walmart, and Amazon

- Phthalates, parabens, and formaldehyde in beauty and personal care products, oxybenzone in sunscreens

- **Target, Costco** adopt ZDHC MRSL
2) Top retailers continue to strengthen or adopt new chemical policies.

- Twenty-one out of twenty-nine retailers (72%) evaluated in 2017 and 2018 improved over the last year.
- Since 2016, eleven retailers improved their grade from a D+ to a C+.
- Since 2017, eighteen more retailers improved their grade from a D to a D+.
- Target, Lowe’s, Costco, and Sephora also reported major gains in 2018.
3) Retailers are aligning around a common list of chemicals of concern.

- “Stewardship list” in BPC Product Sustainability rating system
  - 6 authoritative government lists
  - 2,408 individual substances
  - 5,705 substances in total (when including members of compound groups, e.g. lead compounds)
- Classes of chemicals – PFAS, halogenated flame retardants, ortho-phthalates, parabens, formaldehyde releasers
- Safer alternatives – EPA SCIL list
4) Food retailers seriously lag behind others in reducing chemical hazards.

- PFAS, phthalates, bisphenols
- Average grade of six restaurant chains: F
- Panera: some limited progress on PFAS
- Grocery chains: average grade of D+, with Whole Foods at top
5) Too many retailers fail to address the chemical safety of their products.

- 19 companies receive F grades
- 12 of 19 receive 0 out of 135 points
- 3 sectors particularly lagging behind
  - Restaurants: F grade average for 6 retailers
  - Department Stores: F grade average for 4 retailers
  - Dollar Stores: F grade average for 3 retailers
- 2 others not much better
  - Beauty Shops: D- grade average for 3 retailers
  - Office Supplies: D- grade average for 2 retailers
Tailored recommendations for each retailer & five broader recommendations

1. **Policy:** Publish a written safer chemicals policy, with senior management and board level engagement and accountability for suppliers, which measures and publicly reports on continuous improvement toward reducing, eliminating and safely substituting replacing toxic chemicals in products and packaging;

2. **Goals and Metrics:** Develop clear public goals with timelines and quantifiable metrics to measure success in eliminating chemicals of concern and reducing retailers’ chemical footprint;

3. **Transparency:** Embrace “radical transparency” to meet rising consumer demand for: full public disclosure of chemical ingredients in products and packaging; public safer chemicals policies; and disclosure of both progress and challenges in eliminating harmful chemicals;

4. **Avoid regrettable substitution:** Develop mechanisms to evaluate the hazards of alternatives to ensure informed substitution; and

5. **Foresight:** Anticipate being graded in the future on progress made on chemical safety in products and packaging sold at retail, whether or not your company was included in the *Who’s Minding the Store? 2018 Retailer Report Card.*
Thank you: together we can Mind the Store!

Who’s Minding the Store?

Get in touch:
mikeschade@saferchemicals.org
@Mike_Schade
@SaferChemicals

Join the conversation at
#MindTheStore