

# Who's Minding the Store?



**Mind**  
the  
**Store**

Ranking retailers  
on toxic chemicals

**Mike Schade, Mind the Store Campaign Director**  
**Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families**



**Mind the Store**

# 2017 Report Card Ranking Thirty Top Retailers on Safer Chemicals Policies



## Who's Minding the Store?

A report card on retailer actions to eliminate toxic chemicals

SELECT A RETAILER

TAKE ACTION

## Amazon Plays Catch-Up in Push to Police Chemicals in Products

By Lauren Coleman-Lochner  
November 13, 2017, 9:55 PM EST

- E-commerce giant is developing its policy, advocacy group says
- Apple leads rankings of companies rated on chemical disclosure



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Volume 95 Issue 47 | pp. 22-24  
Issue Date: November 27, 2017

## With prodding, retailers push chemical policies

Advocacy groups' ratings prompt more companies to disclose and reduce chemicals of concern

By Melody M. Bomgardner

A year ago, the Mind the Store campaign of consumer activist organization Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families issued a **report card** grading 11 retail chains on their efforts to reduce or eliminate hazardous chemicals in products they carry. No company received an A grade; Target and Walmart were the only ones to even get a B.

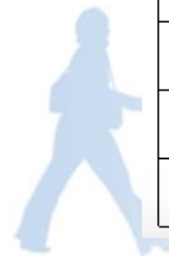


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# Methodology and Metrics for Report Card

- Evaluation of 30 retailers based on publicly available information, across 11 consumer product sectors
- 14 key metrics
- 9 primary: policy, oversight, accountability, disclosure, action, safer alternatives, transparency, chemical footprint, 3<sup>rd</sup> party standards
- 5 extra credit: joint announcement, continuous improvement, safer products, collaboration, impact investment
- Harmonization with Chemical Footprint Project
- 135 possible number points and corresponding letter grades

Grading Rubric		
Number of Points		Letter Grade
Greater than or Equal to:	But Less than:	
105	135	A+
95	105	A
87	95	A-
79	87	B+
71	79	B
63	71	B-
55	63	C+
47	55	C
39	47	C-
31	39	D+
23	31	D
15	23	D-
0	15	F





Apple A Walmart A- CVS Health B+ Ikea B+ Whole Foods Market B+



Target B+ Best Buy B Home Depot C+ Costco C- Albertsons C-

retailerreportcard.com/2017/11/retailer-rankings/

Sort retailers: Order by

Type of retailer:

- All sectors
- Apparel
- Baby/Children
- Beauty/Personal Care
- Department Store
- Dollar Store
- Drugstore
- Electronics
- Furniture/Home Goods
- Groceries
- Home Improvement
- Office Supplies

Retailer	Grade	Points
Apple	A	103
Walmart	A-	87.5
Ikea	B+	83.5
CVS Health	B+	83.5
Whole Foods Market	B+	83.5

Sort retailers: Order by  
 Alphabetical (A-Z)  
 Highest to Lowest Grade  
 Lowest to Highest Grade

Type of retailer: All sectors

Retailer	Grade	Points
SALLY BEAUTY Sally Beauty	F	0
Office DEPOT Office Depot	F	0
TRADER JOE'S Trader Joe's	F	0
KOHLES Kohl's	F	0
DG Dollar General	F	0
TJX TJX Companies	F	0





Target was awarded a B+ grade, receiving 79 out of 135 possible points, the 6th highest score of any retailer evaluated, which reflects improvement from its B grade awarded in 2016. Target made significant progress in expanding its chemicals management work over the past year. In January 2017, Target announced an impressive new safer chemicals policy along with ambitious goals to increase transparency of chemicals in products; reduce and eliminate classes of harmful chemicals in textiles, beauty, baby care, personal care, and household cleaning

Tweet to @Target



12 out of 15 points

Policy: Adopted a retailer safer chemicals policy

Explanation of Points

In 2017, Target announced a new chemicals strategy, policy, and goals, which state it is “committed to driving transparency, proactive chemical management and innovation across all of our owned and national brand consumer products, and operations.” The policy applies to the company’s “entire value chain, operations and every product” it sells, including both private label and brand name products. The company states it “will utilize hazard profiles to prioritize substances for restriction in products and processes, with an emphasis on the impact these substances could have on workers, guests, and communities...Target will utilize Restricted Substances Lists (RSLs) and Manufacturing Restricted Substances Lists (MRSLS) to minimize and, where possible, remove these prioritized chemicals from our products and processes.” The policy is accompanied by clear goals and timelines for reducing perfluorinated chemicals and flame retardants in textiles, as well as parabens, formaldehyde-donors and nonylphenol ethoxylates (NPEs) in beauty, baby care, personal care and household cleaning products. The company’s safer chemicals policy does not appear to apply to packaging.

Summary of Target's Grade



12 out of 15 points

Policy: Adopted a retailer safer chemicals policy

Explanation of Points



10 out of 10 points

Oversight: Established management responsibilities and incentives

Explanation of Points

Select retailer



Read the Report



# Five Key Findings

1:

**IMPROVING:** The nation's largest retailers are driving a race to the top to ensure that safer chemicals are used to make and package their products.

2:

**LEADING:** Other retail leaders on safer chemicals were newly identified by expanding the evaluation to 30 major firms that dominate US retail sectors.

3:

**LAGGING:** Two-thirds of retailers surveyed are serious laggards, failing to implement safer chemical policies, with 40% earning D's and 30% F grades.

4:

**REDUCING:** Retailers are driving toxic chemicals from the market, but more effort is needed to avoid regrettable substitutes as alternatives.

5:

**BY SECTOR:** Some retail sectors are relatively high performers while other sectors seriously lag behind in ensuring the chemical safety of products.











# Highest and Lowest Scoring Retailers

Rank	Grade	Leading Retailers
#1	A	Apple
#2	A-	Wal-Mart Stores
#3 (tie)	B+	CVS Health
#3 (tie)	B+	IKEA
#5	B+	Whole Foods Market*
#6	B+	Target
#7	B	Best Buy
#8	C+	The Home Depot
#9	C-	Costco
#10	C-	Albertsons Companies

Rank	Grade	Lagging Retailers
#22	F	Toys "R" Us / Babies "R" Us
#23 (tie)	F	Ace Hardware
#23 (tie)	F	Ahold Delhaize
#23 (tie)	F	Dollar General
#23 (tie)	F	Kohl's
#23 (tie)	F	Office Depot
#23 (tie)	F	Sally Beauty
#23 (tie)	F	TJX Companies
#23 (tie)	F	Trader Joe's

# How retailers rank on tackling toxic chemicals

EXTRA CREDIT

	15 pts	10 pts	10 pts	10 pts	15 pts	10 pts	15 pts	7.5 pts	7.5 pts	5 pts	15 pts	5 pts	5 pts	5 pts	Final Score
	Policy	Oversight	Accountability	Disclosure	Action	Safer Alternatives	Transparency	Chemical Footprint	Third-party Standards	Joint Announcement	Continuous Improvement	Safer Products	Collaboration	Impact Investment	
 Ace Hardware	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 PTS. <b>F</b>
 Ahold Delhaize	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 PTS. <b>F</b>
 Albertsons	4	2.5	2.5	0	6	2	7.75	0	4.5	0	10	0	0	0	39.25 PTS. <b>C-</b>
 Amazon	0	3.75	2.5	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	5	5	5	0	30.25 PTS. <b>D</b>
 Apple	12	10	10	7.5	12	10	9	0	7.5	0	15	0	5	5	103 PTS. <b>A</b>
 Babies "R" Us	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	5 PTS. <b>F</b>
 Best Buy	9	7.5	7.5	5	12	2	5	0	3	0	10	5	5	0	71 PTS. <b>B</b>
 Buy Buy Baby	6	2.5	2.5	5	0	1	6.5	0	1.5	0	10	0	0	0	35 PTS. <b>D+</b>
 Costco	6	2.5	7.5	0	0	4	5	0	3	0	10	0	5	0	43 PTS. <b>C-</b>
 CVS Health	6	10	5	6	15	6	9	1.5	0	5	10	5	5	0	83.5 PTS. <b>B+</b>





## Global Markets Outlook

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas | March 7-9, 2018

## Staples, Marriott to Push Suppliers to Participate in Chemical Footprint Tool

June 9, 2015 by Kirsten Korosec

Staples, Marriott, Dignity Health, Trillium Asset Management and other US businesses representing more than \$50 billion in investment and purchasing power will require vendors, suppliers and builders to use a new tool that measure the use of harmful chemicals in products and production processes. The initiative will begin June 17, according to organizers of the Chemical Footprint Project.

The [Chemical Footprint Project](#) is an online assessment tool for publicly benchmarking corporate [chemicals](#) management and profiling leadership companies that launched late last year. Now, businesses that backed the project have committed to asking suppliers and other companies that work with them to go online and determine their chemical footprint score.



## Walmart Strengthens Sustainable Chemistry Commitment, Reports Progress in Safer Product Formulation



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

## CVS Health Takes Major Step to Address Chemicals of Consumer Concern

Share this:

Wednesday, April 19, 2017

*Parabens, phthalates and the most prevalent formaldehyde donors will be removed from extensive line of store brand beauty and personal care products*

*Company also publishes full list of restricted chemicals*

WOONSOCKET, R.I., April 19, 2017 – Today CVS Health (NYSE:CVS), took a major step forward in advancing its efforts to address chemicals of consumer concern by announcing the removal of parabens, phthalates and the most prevalent formaldehyde donors across nearly 600 beauty and personal care products from its store brand CVS Health, Beauty 360, Essence of Beauty, and Blade product lines. The Promise Organic line of store brand products also does not contain any of these ingredients. CVS Pharmacy will stop shipping store brand products that don't meet

### Related Press Releases

09.07.17  
[CVS Pharmacy Thinks Outside the Box with Introduction of Health and Wellness Vending Machines](#)

04.20.17  
[CVS Pharmacy Unveils Enhanced Customer Experience, New Store Design](#)

03.30.17  
[CVS Pharmacy Makes Korean Beauty More Accessible Than Ever](#)

## Wal-Mart Puts Chemicals in Spotlight by Joining New Program

By [Lauren Coleman-Lochner](#) and [Taylor Cromwell](#)  
August 2, 2017, 3:01 AM EDT Updated on August 2, 2017, 4:47 PM EDT

- Companies like J&J also partaking in Chemical Footprint group
- Program provides third-party standard to gauge chemical risk



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# Thank you.

Visit [RetailerReportCard.com](http://RetailerReportCard.com) to read the brand new report

Get in touch:

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**Mind the Store** | Ranking retailers on toxic chemicals

The graphic features a stylized illustration of a family—a man, a woman, and a child—walking away from the viewer. The man is on the left, wearing a brown coat and carrying several colorful shopping bags. The woman is on the right, wearing a green coat and a pink scarf, also carrying shopping bags. The child is in the middle, wearing a red coat and a pink hat, holding hands with both parents. The background is a simple light gray gradient.