

Healthy Legacy

Healthy people,
a clean environment
and a thriving economy

Cleaning Product Ingredient Disclosure Bill

Healthy Legacy supports a policy to require that manufacturers disclose cleaning product ingredients to consumers. This bill:

- Require manufacturers of both consumer and industrial cleaning products to disclose a subset of the ingredients in their products on the label (first 20 ingredients by weight and any additional potentially hazardous chemicals), and all of the ingredients on their website.
- Does NOT require disclosure of the exact formula or process used to create the product.



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Most cleaning product labels still do not give consumers sufficient ingredient information to make informed decisions about which products are safe and which ones might harm their health.
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Examples of cleaning chemicals linked to health concerns

Asthma:

Alkylphenol ethoxylates, quaternary ammonium compounds, glutaraldehyde, chlorine bleach, ammonia, glycol ethers

Cancer or reproductive harm:

Phthalates, styrene, synthetic musks, trichloroethylene, ethylbenzene, petroleum distillates, 2-butoxyethanol, thiourea, formaldehyde.

Consumers have the right to know what is in their cleaning products

Ingredient disclosure on product labels is required for food, cosmetics, and drugs – but not cleaning products. This lack of ingredient disclosure leaves consumers in the dark when they attempt to purchase cleaning products that are safe for themselves and their families. While disinfectants are required to list active ingredients on product labels, there is no requirement to list the “inactive” ingredients. Even in cases where some ingredients are disclosed, other chemicals in these products may still remain hidden from consumers under terms such as “fragrance” and “surfactants.”

To leave a healthy legacy, Minnesota needs safe products and safe ways to make them.

Health Risks from Exposure to Cleaning Products

According to the Minnesota Department of Health, cleaning products contribute to concentrations of many common pollutants that are 2 to 5 times higher inside homes than outside.¹ Many of these chemicals have been found in blood, urine, and breast milk, as well as in the umbilical cord blood of newborns.^{2, 3, 4} Exposure to some cleaning product ingredients is linked to increased risk for asthma, cancer, birth defects, and other serious health concerns.

- Fumes from some cleaning products can induce asthma in otherwise healthy individuals and exacerbate asthma in people who already have the disease.^{5, 6, 7}
- The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration cautions workers on the hazards of cleaning chemicals, including skin rashes, burns, coughing, and asthma.⁸
- The U.S. EPA warns that exposure to cleaning products in schools can cause symptoms such as headaches and eye, nose, and throat irritations, and products containing volatile organic compounds (VOCs) can cause asthma, upper respiratory irritation, fatigue, nasal congestion, nausea, and dizziness.⁹
- Some ingredients found in the cleaners are linked to cancer, reproductive developmental toxicity, allergies and irritation, burns, and poisonings.^{10, 11}
- Children born to women who held cleaning jobs while pregnant had an elevated risk of birth defects¹² and the offspring of women with higher home exposure to cleaning products during pregnancy were at higher risk for developing persistent wheezing.^{13, 14}

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Citations

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