

# Legislative Session 2025

## Focus on the Safer Products for Washington Program

### Preventing exposure to toxic chemicals

We all rely on consumer products in our daily lives, but these products should not put our health, our children, or the environment at risk.

Many consumer products can contain toxic chemicals that can escape into household dust, food, water, soil, wildlife like salmon and orcas, and even our own bodies. This happens during product use, manufacturing, or improper disposal by manufacturers or consumers. For example, chemicals are often released into the environment as furniture wears down, as building materials like caulk degrade, or when we wash our clothes.

In our state, millions of dollars have been spent removing toxics from contaminated water and other impacted areas. Despite these efforts, some sensitive species like salmon and orcas continue to decline—partly because of chemical pollution.

### Better health and environmental protection

The Pollution Prevention for Healthy People and Puget Sound Act of 2019 improves the safety of consumer products for families and the environment. It represents a major milestone in regulating chemicals in everyday products.

The law builds on the successful collaboration between the Departments of Ecology and Health, which developed chemical action plans and implemented the Children’s Safe Products Act. It provides a stronger, more systematic regulatory structure, allowing Ecology to reduce the impact and costs of toxic chemicals in products more effectively. Under this law, Ecology can:

- Focus on preventing toxic chemicals from reaching people and the environment, rather than cleaning up contamination after it occurs.
- Regulate the use of toxic chemicals in consumer products through rulemaking.

- Consider chemical classes in regulations to ensure evidence-based decision-making.

### Safer Products for Washington

The law established a process that allows Ecology to take action on toxic chemicals in consumer products. When safer alternatives are available and feasible, Ecology can adopt rules to restrict these “priority chemicals” in consumer products. Ecology can also require manufacturers to report the use of priority chemicals in their products.

This approach ensures that action can be taken regardless of the availability of safer alternatives—through restrictions to reduce exposure or reporting to promote transparency.

### Program accomplishments

We have successfully completed the first review cycle under this law and initiated two additional review cycles:

- We adopted new restrictions on toxic chemicals, including flame retardants in computers and TVs, and PFAS or “forever chemicals” in furniture. Some of these restrictions take effect on January 1, 2025.
- We conducted research and collaborated with stakeholders, including manufacturers, to identify other products where safer alternatives to PFAS exist. As a result, we submitted a report to the Legislature recommending restrictions or reporting requirements for PFAS used in:
  - Apparel and gear (for example, rainwear, reusable diapers, camping equipment)
  - Cleaning products
  - Cookware
  - Firefighting personal protective equipment
  - Hard surface sealants
  - Waxes and polishes for floors, vehicles, and sports equipment

- We conducted research to identify the next set of toxic chemicals to prioritize under this law. This work included hosting webinars and collecting public input to learn which chemicals Washingtonians are most concerned about. In July, we submitted a report identifying the next set of priority chemicals:
  - Cadmium and cadmium compounds
  - Lead and lead compounds
  - Organobromine and or organochlorine substances
  - Benzene, ethyl benzene, toluene, and xylene substances (BTEX)
  - Formaldehyde and formaldehyde releasers
  - Cyclic volatile methylsiloxanes (cVMS)
  - 6PPD
- We began identifying the next set of consumer products that contain the priority toxic chemicals. In November, we hosted webinars to discuss our proposed list of 16 priority consumer products, including:
  - Architectural paints
  - Artificial turf
  - Cleaning and household care products
  - Cosmetics
  - Insulation
  - Jewelry and accessories
  - Nail polish products
  - Plastic packaging
  - Sealants, adhesives, and caulks
  - Toilet and bathroom deodorizers
- We also conducted a public comment period on the draft report identifying the consumer products listed above. We are reviewing the feedback and will submit a final report to the Legislature by June 1, 2025.

The Legislature has the opportunity to review our latest work. If no changes are requested, our PFAS regulatory determinations report and July 2024 priority chemicals report will become final. However,

if the Legislature directs Ecology to make changes, we will incorporate those updates into our process moving forward.

### What's next?

Once the reports are finalized, we will move to the next step in the process for each cycle.

For PFAS regulatory determinations, the rulemaking process began in December 2023. We expect to publish draft rule language in Summer 2025 and adopt the final rule by December 2025.

For the next set of priority consumer products, we will submit a final version of our report to the Legislature by June 2025. After that, we will research whether safer alternatives exist for the priority chemicals in these consumer products. We aim to release a draft report in Fall 2026, outlining our findings and proposing any necessary restrictions or reporting requirements.

As part of our safer alternatives research, we will continue evaluating PFAS use in products such as cookware and firefighting personal protective equipment. We will also revisit PCBs in printing inks. We will assess whether safer alternatives are available and feasible. If we identify viable alternatives, we may propose restrictions on these products.

### Related Information

[Chapter 173-337 WAC](#)

([app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-337](http://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-337))

[Cycle 1.5 Regulatory Determinations Report](#)

([apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2404023.html](https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2404023.html))

[Cycle 2 Priority Chemicals Report](#)

([apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2404025.html](https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2404025.html))

[Cycle 2 Draft Priority Consumer Products Report](#)

([apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2404049.html](https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2404049.html))



Kimberly Goetz

[Kimberly.Goetz@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Goetz@ecy.wa.gov)

360-819-7080



To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6700

or email at [hwtrpubs@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:hwtrpubs@ecy.wa.gov),

or visit [ecology.wa.gov/accessibility](http://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility).

For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341