

Take the detective work out of choosing safer cosmetics.



ECY 24-04-061
December 2024



Learn how
YOU
can find safer
products



Safer cosmetics are coming to stores and salons near you.

Cosmetics are more than makeup—they include most personal care products, like shampoo, deodorant, and lotion. Some cosmetic chemicals are linked to harmful health impacts, like the ones shown here. In Washington, we’re restricting use of these chemicals in cosmetics, so the products you use every day are becoming safer.



Chemical

Phthalates

PFAS

**Formaldehyde
Methylene Glycol**

Function

- Plasticizer
- Solvent
- Fragrance
- Color fixative

A variety of functions, including:

- Skin and hair conditioner
- Affects product texture & consistency

- Preservative
- Hair-straightening
- Cosmetic glue

Health concerns

Can disrupt hormones and cause harm to reproduction and development. Toxic to aquatic life.

Can cause harm to reproduction and development, cancer, thyroid toxicity, and decreased immune response.

Irritating to skin, eye, and respiratory system. Can cause allergic skin responses, asthma, lung damage, and cancer.

Where it may be found

Nail polish, hair spray, aftershave lotions, cleansers, and shampoos.

Make-up, hairspray, lotions, shampoo, creams, and powders.

Hair straightening products, hair care products, skin care products, makeup and eyelash glue



This information is compiled from publicly available studies about chemical ingredients that have been found in certain types of cosmetics. It is not exhaustive, nor does it necessarily apply to all products in a category. You may need additional product-specific information, or information from other sources to help make personal or professional decisions.



Mercury



Triclosan



m- and o-Phenylenediamines



Lead

- Preservative
- Skin-lightening agent

Preservative

Helps achieve desired color in hair dyes

Impurity or contaminant

Toxic to the brain and nervous system. Can damage kidneys and liver. Can cause skin allergies.

Can disrupt hormones, cause harm to child development, and create antibiotic resistance. Toxic to aquatic life.

Can cause cancer, organ toxicity, and skin allergies. Toxic to aquatic life.

Can cause cancer, reproductive harm, and harm to child brain development. Toxic to aquatic life.

Skin-lightening products, blemish or dark spot remover, eye-area cosmetics.

Skincare products, fragrance, makeup, hair products, and hair removal products.

Hair dyes

Eye shadow, eye liner, blush, lipstick, clay masks.

Reduce your exposure to toxic chemicals in cosmetics.



Buy cosmetics in Washington State. The Toxic-Free Cosmetics Act (TFCA) stops many harmful chemicals from being used in cosmetics sold or distributed in Washington.



Look for third-party certifications, like Cradle-to-Cradle or EPA Safer Choice. A certification means an expert has reviewed the ingredients.



Ask retailers and stylists about safer, TFCA-compliant products.



Scan here to learn more.



ecology.wa.gov/tfca

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6700 or email at hwtrpubs@ecy.wa.gov, or visit ecology.wa.gov/accessibility. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.