

## Brief Nov. 14 Webinar Summary: Safer Products for Washington Cycle 2

The Washington State Department of Ecology's Safer Products for Washington program hosted two webinars on November 14, 2024, to discuss the consumer products identified in cycle 2, phase 2. These products are highlighted in the draft reports we recently published:

- [Draft Identification of Priority Products Report to the Legislature](#).<sup>1</sup>
- [Draft Technical Supporting Documentation for Priority Products](#).<sup>2</sup>

The webinars provided an opportunity for the public to learn about the products and chemicals prioritized by the Safer Products for Washington program. We encouraged participants to share their feedback, which will help shape the final report that we will submit to the Legislature by June 1, 2025.

## Feedback and comments summarized

### Chemicals of interest

Attendees frequently referenced these chemicals and their uses in Washington:

- PFAS
- 6PPD
- Lead & cadmium
- PVC & PVDC
- cVMS
- Polystyrene

### Program process insights

Participants expressed:

- Support for science-based decision-making.
- A need for clarity on how Ecology might deal with chemicals in products that are already being sold.
- Interest in better connecting the program's work with the PFAS Chemical Action Plan and Toxic-Free Cosmetics Act.
- Questions about thresholds, scope (intentionally added vs. impurities), and regulatory timelines.

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<sup>1</sup> [apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/summarypages/2404049.html](https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/summarypages/2404049.html)

<sup>2</sup> [apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/summarypages/2404050.html](https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/summarypages/2404050.html)

- Curiosity about how Ecology references external research and regulatory models such as studies from EPA other states.

## Key questions answered

We provided answers to questions shared at both webinars:

- **Restriction Process:** A four-phase approach—prioritize chemicals, identify products, determine regulatory actions, conduct rulemaking. Restrictions only occur if safer alternatives are feasible and available.
- **Timing:** Final priority products will be set by June 2025. Regulatory determinations will follow in the next phase, including restrictions, reporting requirements, or no action.
- **Defining "Significant Source":** Based on potential for exposure, volume, and population impact—not all criteria are weighted equally.
- **Definitions:** “Package” includes containers; “packaging components” include cushioning, closures, and labels.
- **Food Packaging:** Scope of plastic packaging category is broad and includes food packaging made from PVC and PVDC.
- **Exemptions:** Not listing a product in this cycle doesn’t exempt it from future consideration.
- **Comparison to Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA):** Ecology uses a **hazard-based** approach, unlike the **risk-based** approach of the EPA under TSCA.
- **Program Coordination:** Safer Products for Washington operates independently but complements Chemical Action Plans and the Toxic Free Cosmetics Act. For instance, products from the PFAS Chemical Action Plan are included in current rulemaking ("Cycle 1.5"), with some continuing further analysis in Cycle 2.

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