

Webinar Notes: Safer Products for Washington Cycle 2, June 2025

The Washington State Department of Ecology held two webinars on June 17, 2025, to share a summary of our final report.

Note: This document summarizes questions asked by attendees and our responses during the webinars held on June 17, 2025. Find the [presentation materials](#)¹ and more information about Safer Products for Washington on the [stakeholder webpage](#).² If you have questions, contact us at SaferProductsWA@ecy.wa.gov.

Summary of Questions and Answers

Q: As you collect information in your research phase, can information be submitted under confidential business information (CBI) claims?

A: You can request to have proprietary information granted confidential treatment under [RCW 43.12A.160](#).³ See our guidance on [Confidential Business Information](#).⁴

Q: Will the insulation category include products that contain insulation as well, such as refrigerators or HVAC? Same question for caulks.

A: Products that contain insulation, like refrigerators, aren't included in the scope of this category. We define the scope as "materials used to provide thermal insulation between spaces and buildings."

Likewise, products that contain caulk as a component of a manufactured product are excluded. The product category is specific to products sold as sealants, caulks, and adhesives.

All ortho-phthalates are included in the sealants, caulks, and adhesives priority product category. We don't have a specific list of CAS numbers for chemicals in scope; instead, we use a definition for ortho-phthalates based on chemical structure. The definition of ortho-phthalates is defined in the [report](#).⁵ If you have a

¹ www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/saferproducts/June%202025%20Priority%20Products%20Webinar.pdf

² www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37555/safer_products_for_washington.aspx

³ app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=43.21A.160

⁴ www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/saferproducts/CBI_Process_SaferProductsWA_Dec2023.pdf

⁵ apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2504030.html

question about whether a chemical is or is not included, please [contact us](#)⁶ and we can clarify.

Q: Did you include paints and coatings with a waterproofing function in the sealants, caulks, and adhesives category?

A: The category is sealants, caulks, and adhesives—it doesn't include paint products that provide a waterproofing function as a "coating."

This category covers products that seal spaces or gaps between two materials in building and construction uses. The [technical chapter of our report](#)⁷ has a table with manufacturer safety data sheets of some products in scope for reference. This includes concentrations and the identity of various ortho-phthalates in these products.

Q: Do solid deodorizers include solid air fresheners or are these considered different categories?

A: It can be challenging to describe these products accurately. We define the scope as solid deodorizers; we include solid room deodorizers but not liquid air fresheners.

The focus is on the solid deodorizing blocks, as these products can be made almost entirely of chemical 1,4-dichlorobenzene (1,4-DCB). The chemical is designed to spread into the air as the chemical changes from a solid into a gas through sublimation.

If a chemical is used to sublime, like 1,4-DCB, and is in the class of organochlorine substances, then that would be within the scope of the category. Our phase 3 analysis may reveal additional chemicals in solid deodorizers with similar characteristics worth considering. At present, we are not aware of any other chemicals used in this same way.

⁶ SaferProductsWA@ecy.wa.gov

⁷ apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2504031.html

Q: PFAS in Architectural Paint: Ecology did not identify the use of Parachlorobenzotrifluoride (PCBTF) as a volatile organic chemical (VOC) exempt solvent in the manufacture of low VOC paint. Why was this excluded from the final report? Will Ecology limit consideration to "PFAS" used as a surfactant only?

A: We saw in comments from the American Coatings Association (ACA) that some PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are used to help reduce emissions of other volatile organic compounds in paint formulations. We appreciate the information provided by the American Coatings Association on the use of PCBTF as a solvent in paints, and that it is considered volatile organic compound-exempt by the Environmental Protection Agency.

PCBTF meets the definition of PFAS in our statute. We are considering the entire class of PFAS chemicals in paints as part of our analysis of alternatives in phase 3. We have not excluded any specific PFAS or chemical functions from our analysis at this time. For that reason, we include some information on PCBTF in architectural paints because it is a significant use of PFAS in these products.

In phase 3, we will consider the suggestion to focus on a specific chemical function in paint, such as a surfactant function, and to include a description of PCBTF as a volatile organic compound-exempt chemical by the Environmental Protection Agency. We will examine these functional uses and work to identify safer, feasible, and available alternatives to PFAS in architectural paints.

Q: What is considered an "alternative?" Do cost, performance, and durability differences matter?

A: As we think about potential alternatives for products, we have criteria for how we look at what is feasible and available. We can consider cost, performance, and measures like durability. See our [regulatory determinations report from cycle 1, phase 3, appendix D](#).⁸

We take this approach to determine alternatives:

First, are there safer alternatives already on the market? That is often an indicator that it is feasible and available for the product group.

Next, we would consider manufacturer feedback about the performance requirements that are shared with us for the product category and determine if the available alternatives can meet the necessary performance measures.

⁸ apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/summarypages/2204018.html

Q: Are animal shampoos and conditioners included in cosmetics? I know that mane and tail detanglers often contain siloxanes, and certain brands are used and marketed to people.

A: Shampoos for animals specifically are not included in the [definition of cosmetics](#).⁹ It only includes products intended to be applied to the human body. However, if a product is intended to be used on both humans and animals, then it would be included.

Q: While we wait for the regulatory updates, can you provide reliable resources to search for safer alternative consumer products currently available in some of these categories?

A: Our Ecology website has some [information on toxics and how to reduce your exposure to chemicals in consumer products](#).¹⁰ When shopping for products, choose those that meet the EPA requirements for safer chemicals, and look for the [EPA Safer Choice](#)¹¹ label.

For the specific consumer products discussed in the report, we are beginning the safer alternatives research and will share our findings in a future publication.

Q: Can the regulations for plastic packaging align with the requirements of the new extended producer responsibility (EPR) law (SB 5284)? It is helpful for implementation.

A: We plan to work closely with Ecology's solid waste management program to understand where our work overlaps with the Recycling Reform Act ([EPR law](#))¹² and on plastic packaging.

⁹ app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=69.04.011

¹⁰ ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/community-waste-toxics/at-home

¹¹ www.epa.gov/saferchoice/products

¹² app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5284&Year=2025&Initiative=false

Q: Commercial compost contains contaminants. Will you be reevaluating and regulating them?

A: Safer Products for Washington focuses on consumer products—not directly on commercial composting. Contaminants in compost are downstream impacts from their use in products. By preventing the use of PFAS in the first place, we expect to see less downstream contamination over time.

Our solid waste program has a separate rulemaking for [commercial composting](#).¹³ It's not directly about PFAS, but it is considering changes in contamination limits of feedstocks—especially plastic packaging contamination. This started late last year and is going through 2026. If you are interested, please see their [webpage](#)¹⁴ or sign up for the [stakeholder email list](#)¹⁵ to stay informed.

Contact

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¹³ ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/laws-rules-rulemaking/rulemaking/wac-173-350

¹⁴ ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-recycling-waste/organics-and-food-waste/managing-organics-compost

¹⁵ public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAECY/subscriber/new?topic_id=WAECY_342

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