



Oregon
Environmental
Council
It's Your Oregon

Founded in 1968, Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a statewide nonprofit dedicated to advancing innovative, collaborative solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Toxic-Free Kids Act

Toxic-Free Kids Act

- Creates a science-based “High Priority Chemicals of Concern for Children’s Health” list.
- Requires manufacturers to notify Oregon public health officials when their children’s products contain these chemicals.
- Has manufacturers phase out harmful chemicals and replace them with safer alternatives.



Oregon needs the authority to track and evaluate sources of toxic exposure

Currently, chemical ingredients are not fully disclosed to consumers or health officials. To understand and address rising rates of disease, public health experts need to know where and how people are exposed to these toxic chemicals. The Toxic-Free Kids Act establishes an efficient system to identify high priority chemicals when they exist in children's products sold in Oregon, and to phase out these harmful chemicals and replace them with safer alternatives.

Toxics are in our homes and our bodies

Chemicals known to be carcinogens and hormone disruptors are found in our air, dust and water. Studies also find these “chemicals of concern” in the bodies of Oregonians. Infants and children are at greatest risk of lasting harm from exposure.

Everyday products contain toxic chemicals

Even as state agencies work to reduce toxic chemicals in our environment, the same toxics are in consumer products, including products specifically made for children. These toxic chemicals include formaldehyde in fabric, bisphenol A in plastics, phthalates in personal care products and more.

For more information:

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How many priority chemicals are there?

The initial list of high priority chemicals of concern for children's health covers 19 chemicals, including seven phthalates, seven VOCs including formaldehyde, three heavy metals, BPA and a flame retardant.

Are kids exposed to chemicals in products?

All chemicals listed are found in our bodies or home environments. By requiring manufacturers to disclose their use in consumer products, we can better track where and how children are exposed.

Why focus on children's products?

To protect all Oregonians, we focus first on the most vulnerable. Even small amounts of chemicals can affect a child's developing brain and body. By tracking products that children touch, put in their mouths and inhale, we investigate the greatest potential for direct exposure.

How will collected information be used?

The Oregon Health Authority will collect data on how and where chemicals occur and whether they pose a risk to health. They will report results to the legislature every two years.

How will businesses be affected?

National, international and regional manufacturers that sell \$5 million or more of children's products each year must file a notice if products for sale in Oregon use any of the 19 chemicals. Trade organizations may file for members. Manufacturers who comply with Washington's disclosure law can request that their data be shared with Oregon.

Why support toxics policy in Oregon?

Preventative health for Oregon: In 2007, cancer alone created a costly [\\$2.6 billion burden](#) for Oregon in health care costs and lost productivity and earning potential. A small investment in early intervention to reduce risk factors is a big investment in preventative health and reducing the burden of chronic disease.

Science-based policy: Lack of data on exposure is widely accepted as a barrier to toxic chemical risk assessment. Giving Oregon agencies the authority to collect data will improve our understanding in order to make public health decisions based on sound science.

Efficient use of state resources: Even as we address one toxic chemical hazard, others emerge in consumer products. Providing clear authority and a streamlined process to track chemicals of concern is more efficient and cost-effective than addressing one at a time.

Building consumer confidence: A [2012 nationwide poll](#) found that 76% of voters are concerned about the effects of exposure to toxic chemicals in day to day life. By tracking chemicals and prioritizing risks, we can restore consumer confidence in the products on Oregon's shelves.

Rewarding innovators: Disclosure compliance can raise awareness among manufacturers about chemicals of concern, promoting supply chain innovations and leading to voluntary adoption of safer alternatives.