

PROTECT THE HEALTH OF MAINE FAMILIES FROM DANGEROUS CHEMICALS IN EVERYDAY PRODUCTS

Learning and behavior problems, breast and prostate cancer, asthma and allergies. These are just a few of the serious diseases and disabilities linked to exposure to toxic chemicals by credible scientific evidence. Thousands of hazardous or untested chemicals are widely used in plastics and consumer products. Pregnant women and children are among the most vulnerable to chemical dangers. Yet, our federal chemical safety system is badly broken.

That's why in 2008 the Maine Legislature enacted the Kid Safe Products Act by an overwhelming bipartisan margin, upholding it in 2011.



The Kid Safe Products Act – A common sense response

The goal of the law is “to reduce the exposure of children and other vulnerable populations to chemicals of high concern by substituting safer alternatives.” (38 MRSA §1692). Under the Kid Safe Products Act, Maine has the power to:

BPA – A Priority Chemical in Maine

Bisphenol A (BPA) is an industrial chemical used to make polycarbonate plastic and epoxy resins found in hundreds of consumer products, including the linings of metal cans and jar lids. In recent years, canned foods have replaced baby bottles and sippy cups as the major source of children's exposure to BPA. A hormone disrupting chemical, BPA mimics estrogen and harms brain development, behavior, reproductive health and more.

1. Require manufacturers to **publicly report** which consumer products they sell contain Priority Chemicals;
2. Require product makers to evaluate whether **safer alternatives** are available, effective and affordable;
3. Prohibit the sale of products that expose pregnant women and kids to Priority Chemicals, if safer alternatives are both available and affordable.

The Kid Safe Products Act Uses a Science-Based Approach

So far, Maine has taken action on just two *Priority Chemicals*, BPA and NPEs:

- Maine was among the first states to phase out BPA in baby bottles, sippy cups, and baby food packaging;
- Maine was first to require companies to evaluate safer alternatives to BPA in infant formula cans and baby food jar lids;
- Maine was the first state to require reporting of BPA use in plastic toys;
- Maine reporting revealed widespread use of NPEs in household paints – information never before publicly available – as well as the use of NPEs in certain cleaners and personal care products.

NPEs – Maine Priority Chemicals

Nonylphenol ethoxylates (NPEs) are a group of industrial chemicals that are widely used in household paints and some cleaning products. They were banned in laundry detergents because they are highly toxic to aquatic life. NPEs break down into nonylphenol (NP), which poses a triple-threat as a persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic chemical (PBT). NPEs and NP are hormone disrupting chemicals that harm reproductive health in fish and may pose similar hazards to children.

Maine has identified 49 *Chemicals of High Concern*, including seven hormone disrupting chemicals known as phthalates (say “THAL-ates”), with the potential to expose children and pregnant women to serious health hazards, as demonstrated by credible scientific evidence and authoritative agencies.

Maine has identified about 1,400 *Chemicals of Concern* based on their inherent hazards. Credible scientific evidence shows that these chemicals cause cancer, reproductive harm, hormone disruption, or are long lived in the environment and build up in our bodies and the food web.

For More Information:

1. Title 38, Maine Revised Statutes, Chapter 16-D, §1691 *et seq.* Toxic Chemicals in Children’s Products. <http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/38/title38ch16-Dsec0.html>
2. Chapter 882: Designation of Bisphenol A as a Priority Chemical and Regulation of Bisphenol A in Children’s Products. <https://www.maine.gov/dep/safechem/rules.html>
3. Chapter 883: Designation of the Chemical Class Nonylphenol and Nonylphenol Ethoxylates as a Priority Chemical. <https://www.maine.gov/dep/safechem/rules.html>
4. M Belliveau & S Taylor, Environmental Health Strategy Center (2011). “Poison in Paint, Toxics in Toys: An exclusive report on household products that contain two chemicals that wreak hormone havoc: NPEs and BPA.” <http://www.preventharm.org/Images/129/bpanpedatareport.pdf>