

# The Mind the Store Campaign

*Transforming the Retail Marketplace to Safer  
Chemicals and Healthier Products*

**Mike Schade, Mind the Store Campaign Director  
Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families**





Tell America's top retailers: We need you to step up on toxic chemicals!

 **Take action**



## Amazon.com bans deadly paint strippers, signaling growing trend in retail sector

Advocates call on EPA to finalize proposed ban, protect Americans from toxic products

Posted Dec 3, 2018



**Report: Restaurant Chains Lag on Toxic Chemicals,**

**while 21 Retailers Make Progress to Protect Consumers**

Posted Nov 14, 2018



**Amazon announces new policy to restrict toxic**

**chemicals**

Posted Oct 10, 2018



**How retailers benefit from participating in ChemSec's**

**Marketplace**



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**Hazardous 100+**



**Top Retailers**



**For retailers**



**How you can help**

**Who's Minding the Store?**

*A report card on retailer actions to eliminate toxic chemicals*



How retailers rank on tackling toxic chemicals

# Benchmarking retailers on their chemical policies *(and lack there-of)*

B Walmart

B TARGET

C CVSHealth

C- BEST BUY

D+ THE HOME DEPOT

D LOWE'S

D Walgreens

D- Kroger

F Albertsons

F COSTCO WHOLESALE

F amazon



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## Wal-Mart Is First, Amazon Is Worst in New Ranking on Chemicals

by Lauren Coleman-Lochner


November 15, 2016 — 12:00 PM EST Updated on November 15, 2016 — 4:22 PM EST

## TARGET'S CHEMICAL POLICY




### TRANSPARENCY

We will strive for full visibility to chemicals contained in or used to make the products we sell and use in our operations.



### CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT

We will work with business partners to implement policies, practices and tools that facilitate the management of chemicals throughout our supply chain and across our operations.



### INNOVATION

We recognize that safer alternatives may not exist today for some chemicals, therefore we will actively pursue and promote new approaches to chemicals development and the commercialization of safer alternatives.



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## CVS Health Takes Major Step to Address Chemicals of Consumer Concern

Wednesday, April 19, 2017

*Parabens, phthalates and the most prevalent formaldehyde donors will be removed from extensive line of store brand beauty and personal care products*

*Company also publishes full list of restricted chemicals*

WOONSOCKET, R.I., April 19, 2017 – Today CVS Health (NYSE:CVS), took a major step forward in advancing its efforts to address chemicals of consumer concern by announcing the removal of parabens, phthalates and the most prevalent formaldehyde donors across nearly 400 beauty and personal care products from its store brand CVS Health, Beauty 360, Essence of Beauty, and Blacé product lines. The Promise Organic line of store brand products also does not contain any of these ingredients. CVS Pharmacy will stop shipping store brand products that don't meet


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CVS Pharmacy Makes Kinem Beauty More Accessible Than Ever



## Walmart Strengthens Sustainable Chemistry Commitment, Reports Progress in Safer Product Formulation




*Retailer sets new goal for 10 percent priority chemical reduction by 2022*



Costco Wholesale is committed to protecting consumer and environmental health and safety, through establishing and developing products, and processes, so they are safer, healthier, and more sustainable.

Costco's Chemical Management Policy goes beyond the boundaries of regulatory compliance from the product manufacturing process, and from consumer use and disposal, in an effort to reduce potential chemical harm to humans and to the environment.



### Chemical Strategy

At The Home Depot®, we recognize the responsibility we have for the environmental impact of our organization, and that our biggest impact is the products we sell. In partnership with stakeholders throughout the supply chain, The Home Depot is committed to offering products that are safer for the environment.

With our encouragement, our suppliers have been investing in developing environmentally innovative products. The Home Depot supports the work of the Green Chemistry & Commerce Council (GCC3) through annual membership and participation in the Retail Leadership Council of the GCC3, and we participated in developing the GCC3's Joint Statement on using Green Chemistry and Safer Alternatives to Advance Sustainable Products. We and our suppliers also partner with respected third-party certification organizations and environmental non-profits that guide the home improvement industry toward safer chemical ingredient use. The Home Depot is committed to continuing the drive toward minimizing the environmental impact of the products we sell.




### Chemical Management Statement

Best Buy is committed to building a thriving business, while ensuring we are a good steward of the environment and support the responsible use of chemicals in compliance with all laws and regulations.

Beyond compliance, we created a chemical management program to systematically evaluate and prioritize efforts to address chemical risks and opportunities. We seek to reduce the use of chemicals, phase out chemicals of concern and improve the general management of chemicals. Our efforts focus on where we can make the greatest impact:

- Within our **corporate, retail, service and distribution operations**, Best Buy actively looks for opportunities to reduce the use of chemicals. Whenever possible, we work to transition to safer alternatives, with a preference for EPA Safer Choice chemicals.
- For our **private label and direct import products**, we outline supplier requirements regarding the use of chemicals in products as well as those used in the manufacturing process. Best Buy maintains a detailed Restricted Substance List (RSL), which specifies chemicals restricted based upon regulations or known hazards and chemicals suppliers are required to report usage to us.



### Albertsons Companies Chemical Policy

At Albertsons Companies, we understand that consumers want products that they can feel good about. That's why we're committed to quality products, product safety, environmental stewardship and sound chemical management, including limiting the use of certain ingredients of consumer concern. We strive for greater transparency and work with our supplier community to maintain and continually improve brand-specific guidelines for our products. Examples include the following:

1. Our O Organics™ products are United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) certified organic (95%+ organic ingredients), and must meet USDA's standards to receive the certified organic seal. By definition, USDA organic products are free of synthetic additives like pesticides, fertilizers, and dyes, and must not be processed using industrial solvents. They are also non-GMO.
2. As with all our products, we require our suppliers to comply with legal and regulatory guidelines. For our Open Nature™ line of products, we also maintain a Restricted Substances List that includes more than 100 ingredients of consumer concern, including parabens, artificial colors and flavors, certain preservatives and certain packaging materials. This list goes above and beyond legal and regulatory requirements.
3. Our OWN Brands Safer Choice-certified products must adhere to the U.S.

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Ranking retailers  
on toxic chemicals

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# Who's Minding the Store?

2018 report card on retailer actions to eliminate toxic chemicals

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# Challenging a larger list of retailers to “Mind the Store” – twelve new retailers added for 2018

- **Apparel store**
  - Nordstrom
- **Dollar Store chain**
  - 99 Cents Only
- **Grocery stores**
  - Aldi (Aldi Sud)
  - Loblaws
  - Publix
  - Sobeys
- **Restaurant / fast food chains**
  - McDonalds
  - Panera Bread
  - Restaurant Brands International (Burger King, Popeyes, Tim Hortons)
  - Starbucks
  - Subway
  - Yum! Brands (KFC, Pizza Hut, Taco Bell)

# Forty companies evaluated in twelve key retail sectors



Key Consumer Sector	Retailers Evaluated in <i>Who's Minding the Store?</i>
Apparel	Amazon, Kohl's, Macy's, Nordstrom, Target, TJX, Walmart
Baby/Children	99 Cents Only, Amazon, buybuy BABY (Bed Bath & Beyond), Costco, Dollar General, Dollar Tree, Target, Walmart
Beauty & Personal Care	99 Cents Only, Ahold Delhaize (Food Lion, Stop & Shop, Giant, and Hannaford), Albertsons, Aldi US, Amazon, Costco, CVS Health, Dollar General, Dollar Tree, Kohl's, Kroger, Loblaws, Macy's, Nordstrom, Publix, Rite Aid, Sally Beauty, Sephora, Sobeys, Target, Trader Joe's, Ulta, Walgreens, Walmart, Whole Foods Market
Department Store	Kohl's, Macy's, Nordstrom
Dollar Store	99 Cents Only, Dollar General, Dollar Tree
Drugstore	Amazon, Costco, CVS, Rite Aid, Target, Walgreens, Walmart
Electronics	Amazon, Apple, Best Buy, Costco, Kohl's, Macy's, Office Depot, Staples, Target, Walmart
Furniture/Home Goods	Amazon, Bed Bath & Beyond, Costco, Ikea, Kohl's, Macy's, Target, TJX, Walmart, Target
Groceries	99 Cents Only, Ahold Delhaize (Food Lion, Stop & Shop, Giant, and Hannaford), Albertsons, Aldi US, Amazon, Costco, CVS Health, Dollar General, Dollar Tree, Kroger, Loblaws, Publix, Rite Aid, Sobeys, Target, Trader Joe's, Walgreens, Walmart, Whole Foods Market
Home Improvement	Ace Hardware, Amazon, The Home Depot, Lowe's
Office Supplies	Amazon, Office Depot, Staples
Restaurant / Fast Food	McDonald's, Panera Bread, Restaurant Brands International (Burger King, Popeyes, Tim Hortons), Starbucks, Subway, Yum! Brands (KFC, Pizza Hut, Taco Bell)



# Brief summary of our approach

- Evaluation of retailers based on publicly available information
- 14 criteria, harmonized with Chemical Footprint Project (CFP)
- 135 possible number points and corresponding letter grades
- Draft scores shared with companies in advance
- More details:  
<https://retailerreportcard.com/2018/10/methodology-2018/>

Grading Rubric		
Number of Points		Letter Grade
Greater than or Equal to:	But Less than:	
105	135	A+
95	105	A
87	95	A-
79	87	B+
71	79	B
63	71	B-
55	63	C+
47	55	C
39	47	C-
31	39	D+
23	31	D
15	23	D-
0	15	F



Walmart  Sam's Club 



Walmart stores (Walmart and Sam's Club) earned a grade of A-, the same letter grade as it did in 2017, scoring 93.75 out of 135 possible points, the third highest score of any retailer evaluated. In 2018, Walmart announced it was phasing out the sale of methylene chloride- and NMP-based paint strippers in all of its stores in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Central America and on walmart.com, becoming the fourth major retailer to take action on these harmful chemicals. The company has yet to report on other progress in implementing its policy in 2018 but has indicated it plans to share a progress update later this year. Last year, the company made significant progress in both implementing and expanding its chemicals policy, which includes a greater focus on the larger list of 2,700 chemicals. This list grew by adding two new authoritative lists of fragrance chemicals of concern. In 2017, Walmart stated a new goal: by "2022, Walmart aims to reduce its consumables chemical footprint for Walmart U.S. and Sam's Club U.S. stores by 10 percent," which translates to a reduction of toxic chemicals of 55 million pounds. Since 2014, Walmart has reduced the use of "high priority" chemicals by 96% by weight. The company

Tweet to @Walmart

Thanks @Walmart @SamsClub for earning an A- for taking action on toxics from RetailerReportCard.com! #MindTheStore \$WMT <https://retailerreportcard.com/retailer/walmart/>

CLICK TO TWEET 

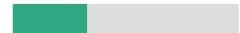
### Summary of Walmart's Grade



11.25 out of 17.5 points

Policy: Adopted a retailer safer chemicals policy

[Explanation of Points](#)



2.5 out of 7.5 points

Oversight: Established management responsibilities and incentives

[Explanation of Points](#)

### Summary of Walmart's Grade



11.25 out of 17.5 points

Policy: Adopted a retailer safer chemicals policy

[Explanation of Points](#)

Walmart and Sam's Club have a written safer chemicals policy, known as the Sustainable Chemistry Policy, along with an Implementation Guide for Suppliers. The policy contains three primary pillars: Transparency, Advancing Safer Formulation, and Advancing our Assortment. The policy was updated and expanded in 2017 with new commitments and public goals, and lists the company's sustainable chemistry principles which includes the 12 principles of green chemistry. The company states that by "2022, Walmart aims to reduce its consumables chemical footprint for Walmart U.S. and Sam's Club U.S. stores by 10 percent," which translates to a reduction of toxic chemicals by 55 million pounds.











Walmart has developed a list of 16 "high priority" chemicals and more than 2,700 "priority" chemicals of concern that it is challenging suppliers to reduce and eliminate. The policy now includes a greater focus on the larger list of 2,700 chemicals, and in 2017 the company expanded the list of chemicals to which its policy applies by adding two new lists of fragrance chemicals of concern. The



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# Retailers graded B- to A+

# Retailers graded F

Retailer	Grade	Points
 Apple	A+	106.25
 Target	A	95.5
 Walmart	A-	93.75
 Ikea	A-	87.75
 Whole Foods Market	B+	83.75
 CVS Health	B+	82.5
 Rite Aid	B+	81.5
 Walgreens	B-	70.5
 Home Depot	B-	63
 Aldi	B-	63



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# How retailers rank on tackling toxic chemicals

EXTRA CREDIT

	17.5 Policy	7.5 Oversight	10 Accountability	10 Disclosure	15 Action	15 Safer Alternatives	15 Transparency	7.5 Chemical Footprint	7.5 Third-party Standards	5 Joint Announcement	15 Continuous Improvement	5 Safer Products	5 Collaboration	5 Impact Investment	Final Score	
99 Cents Only	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 PTS. <b>F</b>
Ace Hardware	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 PTS. <b>F</b>
Ahold Delhaize	2.5	2.5	0	0	0	0	1.5	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	11.5 PTS. <b>F</b>	
Albertsons	7.5	2.5	2.5	0	6	2	7.75	0	4.5	0	5	5	2.5	0	45.25 PTS. <b>C-</b>	
Aldi	15	2.5	7.5	0	15	1	7.5	0	4.5	0	5	0	5	0	63 PTS. <b>B-</b>	
Amazon	5	3.75	2.5	2.5	3	2	9	0	3	1	10	5	5	0	51.75 PTS. <b>C</b>	
Apple	16.25	7.5	10	7.5	13.5	10	9	0	7.5	0	15	0	5	5	106.25 PTS. <b>A+</b>	
Best Buy	13.75	7.5	7.5	2.5	3	2	5	0	3	0	0	5	5	0	54.25 PTS. <b>C</b>	
Buy Buy Baby	7.5	2.5	5	5	0	1	9	0	1.5	0	5	0	0	0	36.5 PTS. <b>D+</b>	

# Five Key Findings



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# 1) Retailers continue to drive toxic chemicals out of consumer products

- **Eleven** retailers ban methylene chloride & NMP in paint strippers, including **Lowe's, Home Depot, Walmart, and Amazon**
- Phthalates, parabens, and formaldehyde in beauty and personal care products, oxybenzone in sunscreens
- **Target, Costco** adopt ZDHC MRSL



## The New York Times

*Lowe's Drops Paint Strippers Blamed in Dozens of Deaths*



Lowe's says it will voluntarily stop selling paint strippers that contain two dangerous chemicals. A proposal to ban the chemicals is before the E.P.A. Robert Galbraith/Reuters

## 2) Top retailers continue to strengthen or adopt new chemical policies.

- **Twenty-one out of twenty-nine retailers (72%)** evaluated in 2017 and 2018 improved over the last year.
- **Since 2016, eleven retailers** improved their grade from a **D+ to a C+**.
- **Since 2017, eighteen more retailers** improved their grade from a **D to a D+**.
- **Target, Lowe's, Costco, and Sephora** also reported major gains in 2018



The 3 most improved retailers  
of 2018 on toxics



Rite Aid, Walgreens & Amazon earned the most improved grades of 2018 from [RetailerReportCard.com](https://RetailerReportCard.com), each adopting new safer chemicals policies to tackle toxic chemicals in beauty, personal care and cleaning products.

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### 3) Retailers are aligning around a common list of chemicals of concern.

- “Stewardship list” in BPC Product Sustainability rating system
  - 6 authoritative government lists
  - 2,408 individual substances
  - 5,705 substances in total (when including members of compound groups, e.g. lead compounds)
- Classes of chemicals – PFAS, halogenated flame retardants, ortho-phthalates, parabens, formaldehyde releasers
- Safer alternatives – EPA SCIL list



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## 4) Food retailers seriously lag behind others in reducing chemical hazards.

- PFAS, phthalates, bisphenols
- Average grade of six restaurant chains: F
- Panera: some limited progress on PFAS
- Grocery chains: average grade of D+, with Whole Foods at top



Every restaurant graded by [RetailerReportCard.com](http://RetailerReportCard.com) scored an F for lack of action on chemicals that can contaminate food through packaging and other food contact materials—phthalates, PFAS, and BPA.

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# 5) Too many retailers fail to address the chemical safety of their products.

- 19 companies receive F grades
- 12 of 19 receive 0 out of 135 points
- 3 sectors particularly lagging behind
  - Restaurants: F grade average for 6 retailers
  - Department Stores: F grade average for 4 retailers
  - Dollar Stores: F grade average for 3 retailers
- 2 others not much better
  - Beauty Shops: D- grade average for 3 retailers
  - Office Supplies: D- grade average for 2 retailers



**F** 19 retailers are failing to address toxic chemicals in products

99¢ ONLY STORES ACE BURGER KING  
DG KFC ★ MCDONALD'S  
N OFFICE DEPOT [swirl] P  
SALLY BEAUTY Sobey's STARBUCKS [green arrow]  
TJX TRADER JOE'S ULTA BEAUTY

About half of the retailers analyzed by [RetailerReportCard.com](http://RetailerReportCard.com) lack any sort of public policy to address toxic chemicals.

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# Tailored recommendations for each retailer & five broader recommendations

**1: Policy:** Publish a written safer chemicals policy, with senior management and board level engagement and accountability for suppliers, which measures and publicly reports on continuous improvement toward reducing, eliminating and safely substituting replacing toxic chemicals in products and packaging;

**2: Goals and Metrics:** Develop clear public goals with timelines and quantifiable metrics to measure success in eliminating chemicals of concern and reducing retailers' chemical footprint;

**3: Transparency:** Embrace “radical transparency” to meet rising consumer demand for: full public disclosure of chemical ingredients in products and packaging; public safer chemicals policies; and disclosure of both progress and challenges in eliminating harmful chemicals;

**4: Avoid regrettable substitution:** Develop mechanisms to evaluate the hazards of alternatives to ensure informed substitution; and

**5: Foresight:** Anticipate being graded in the future on progress made on chemical safety in products and packaging sold at retail, whether or not your company was included in the *Who's Minding the Store?* 2018

Retailer Report Card.



# Thank you: together we can Mind the Store!



**Get in touch:**

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**Join the conversation at  
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