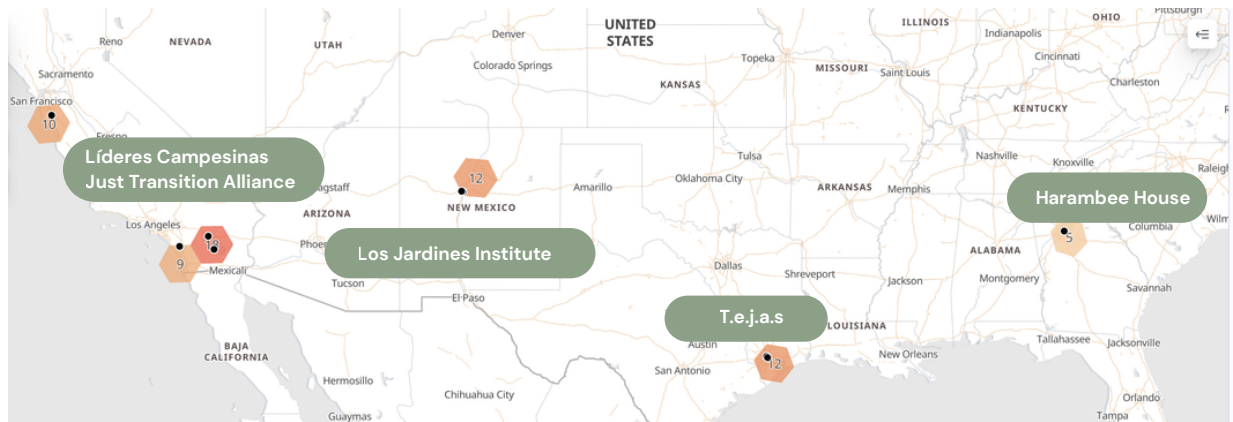


Product Screening for the People:

a closer look at personal care and household products sold at dollar stores

About the project:



In the summer of 2026, community groups allied with the Campaign for Healthier Solutions (CHS) collected product information from local dollar stores and online retailer listings, focusing on personal care, household, and other formulated products. Participants captured label photos of 63 products in Dollar Tree and Dollar General stores in California, Georgia, New Mexico, and Texas using Clearya Survey, while 15 Family Dollar products were identified from online retailer listings. Participants intentionally selected products with ingredients that they suspected were linked to health harms. Clearya Insights processed the collected product information, extracting and standardizing product names, brand names, and ingredient names from the submitted label photos and retailer listings. The ingredient names were then screened using Clearya Insights against lists of chemicals of concern selected by CHS. These lists include chemical hazard and restriction lists from government agencies and international organizations, such as the California Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the European Union, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, and the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as chemical restrictions established by the retailers themselves. An ingredient from a product label or retailer listing was flagged when it appeared on one or more of these lists.

Key findings from 78 products screened:

- **12 products listed potential endocrine disrupting chemicals**, including parabens, benzophenone-1 and BHT (butylated hydroxytoluene).
- **5 products listed potential reproductive toxicants**, including lilial (butylphenyl methylpropional), toluene, and pentasodium pentetate as a possible ingredient.
- **3 products listed ingredients classified as potential cancer-causing chemicals**, including cocamide DEA in a baby wash, isoeugenol in body spray, and myrcene in laundry detergent.
- **2 personal care products listed a formaldehyde-releasing preservative**: DMDM hydantoin.
- **1 product listed PFAS as an ingredient** (methyl perfluoroisobutyl ether).
- **6 products listed ingredients that are prohibited in cosmetics in at least one U.S. state**, either currently or starting in 2027 (DMDM hydantoin: WA; toluene: VT; PFAS and lilial CA).
- **2 products listed an ingredient that is prohibited in cosmetics in the European Union** (lilial).
- **60 products listed “fragrance” or “parfum,”** which could hide health-harming ingredients.

Hidden in plain sight: chemicals of concern listed in dollar store personal care products

Products listing potential endocrine-disrupting chemicals



L.A. Colors "Bold" 12 Color Eyeshadow "Chic" sold at Dollar Tree (CA) listed **4 chemicals linked to hormone disruption** (butylparaben, propylparaben, methylparaben, and ethylparaben). It also lists talc and may contain titanium dioxide, and carbon black which can be harmful when inhaled as fine particles.



L.A. Colors Brand 3-in-1 Makeup Stick in Pink Satin, sold at Dollar Tree (CA); Glitter 4-Color Eyeshadow Palette "Splendid" and Matte Lipstick "Starlet" sold at Family Dollar online, all listed **methylparaben and propylparaben**, which are linked to hormone disruption.



Luxury Nail Polish Remover with Vitamin E, sold at Dollar Tree (CA) listed **benzophenone-1**, linked to hormone disruption.



Udderly Smooth Udder Cream Lotion, sold at Dollar Tree (TX) listed **propylparaben and methylparaben**. Parabens are linked to hormone disruption and can be absorbed through the skin.



Bod Man "Really Ripped Abs" Fragrance Body Spray, sold at Dollar General (CA); Degree UltraClear Black+White Antiperspirant Deodorant Dry Spray Pure Clean and AXE Antiperspirant Deodorant Stick Apollo, both sold online at Family Dollar all listed **BHT (butylated hydroxytoluene)**, linked to hormone disruption.



Kokie Ultra-Hold Waterproof Mascara sold at Dollar Tree (NM) and L.A. Colors Lipgloss & Lipstick Duo "Twinkle" sold at Dollar Tree (CA) listed **BHT (butylated hydroxytoluene)**.



...and PFAS.



Bling Bubbles Razz-Fizz Scented Purify & Detoxify Bubbling Face Mask, sold at Dollar Tree (CA) listed **methylparaben, fragrance**, and intentionally added **PFAS** (methyl perfluoroisobutyl ether). California bans the sale, manufacture, and distribution of cosmetic products containing intentionally added PFAS.

What can dollar stores do to protect us?

- **Pressure their suppliers:** Dollar Tree and Dollar General already restrict propylparaben, but only in private-label products. Dollar stores need to use their purchasing power to pressure national-brand suppliers like L.A. Colors to get endocrine-disrupting chemicals and PFAS out of products too.
- **The good news:** Dollar Tree has committed to **restrict four more parabens**, including methylparaben and ethylparaben, from private-label products by 2028. Dollar Tree will also restrict PFAS in all private-label cosmetics by 2027. Beginning in 2026, they will **engage major suppliers of national brand products** to further comply with the company's Chemical Management Policy.

Hidden in plain sight: chemicals of concern listed in dollar store personal care products

Products listing potential reproductive toxicants



IT Hair Products 12-in-One Leave In Volumizing Treatment, sold at Dollar General (CA), and Modess Sheer Lavender Feminine Cleansing Wipes sold at Dollar Tree (TX) listed **lilial** (butylphenyl methylpropional), which may reduce fertility and pose risks to fetal development. Lilial will be banned in cosmetics in California starting in 2027; it is also banned in the European Union.



Skip the Spa blemish patches sold at Dollar Tree (CA) list **toluene**, a potential reproductive toxicant that will be prohibited in cosmetics in Vermont starting July 2027. Here it may be used in the product's adhesive, potentially coming into direct contact with the skin. Dollar Tree's Chemical Management Policy restricts toluene in its private-label products.



Downy Ultra Liquid Fabric Softener, "April Fresh" and Gain Original Fabric Softener Liquid, both sold at Dollar Tree (CA, GA), list fragrances, quaternary ammonium compounds, and "**pentasodium pentetate** or tetrasodium glutamate diacetate". Pentasodium pentetate is classified in the EU as a presumed reproductive toxicant.

Products listing formaldehyde releasers



Pro Silk Body 24 HR Moisturizing Body Lotion Blush "Prosecco," sold at Dollar Tree (CA) and LASplash Chilled Jelly Eye Masks sold at Dollar Tree (TX) listed the **formaldehyde releaser DMDM hydantoin**. Formaldehyde releasing chemicals will be banned in cosmetics in Washington state starting January 2027, because formaldehyde is linked to cancer and asthma.

What dollar stores can do to protect us (and themselves)..

- **Get ahead on compliance.** If a substance is banned at the state level, dollar stores should ensure that both private-label and national brand suppliers omit it from their products nationwide.
- **The good news:** Dollar Tree's Chemical Management Policy builds on state laws in WA, CA and VT, by restricting toluene, formaldehyde-releasers (by 2028) and PFAS (by 2027) nationwide in private-label formulated products. It also introduces new transparency requirements for suppliers.

Hidden in plain sight: chemicals of concern listed in dollar store personal care products

Products listing ingredients classified as potential cancer-causing chemicals



Ajax Extreme Clean With Dynamo "Put A Hurt On Dirt" Mountain Air Laundry Detergent, sold at Dollar Tree (CA) listed ethoxylated alcohols, fragrances, and **myrcene**, a potential carcinogen.



Little Tikes Baby Shampoo & Wash, Original Scent sold at Dollar Tree (CA, TX) listed **cocamide DEA**, included in the California Proposition 65 list for cancer and classified by IARC as possibly carcinogenic to humans.



Power Stick Pacific Nights Body Spray for Her sold at Dollar Tree (CA), listed **isoeugenol**, which IARC classifies as possibly carcinogenic to humans, as well as fragrance, and the propellant gases butane and isobutane, which are typically derived from fossil fuels.

What are ethoxylated ingredients?

- Ethoxylated ingredients are common ingredients in personal care and cleaning products. **More than half the products in this sample listed at least one ethoxylated ingredient.**
- Examples of ethoxylated ingredients on labels include PEG compounds, sodium laureth sulfate, and polysorbates, ingredient names ending in "eth" followed by a number, such as "ceteareth-20", and ingredient names containing "ethoxylate".
- **Ethoxylated ingredients are made using ethylene oxide**, a carcinogen. Facilities that make and use ethylene oxide can raise community cancer risk in the U.S. Manufacturing of ethoxylated ingredients can leave trace amounts of 1,4-dioxane, a suspected human carcinogen. An ethoxylated ingredient on a label does not establish whether 1,4-dioxane is present or at what concentration.
- CHS recommends avoiding ethoxylated ingredients because their manufacture contributes to fenceline pollution harming our communities.

Safer shopping tips:

- Avoid products that list "fragrance" or "parfum" on the label; they can hide health-harming ingredients.
- Use a free app like Clearya to screen product labels for chemicals of concern before you buy.
- Look for the U.S. EPA's "Safer Choice" certification on the labels of laundry detergents and cleaning products.
- Use "mineral-based" sunscreens (with active ingredients zinc-oxide or titanium-dioxide) instead of "chemical-based" sunscreens.
- Look for "paraben free" on lotions and other personal care products.
- Look for "talc-free" on powders.
- Generally avoid makeup products that claim to be "waterproof" unless they are PFAS-free.
- Avoid products that list a Proposition 65 warning; but know this is only required on products in California.

Highlighted online resources for making more informed personal care shopping choices:

- [Campaign for Safe Cosmetics](#)
- [Weaving Voices](#)
- [EWG Skin Deep Database](#)
- [Clearya consumer app](#)

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