

# CAMPAIGN FOR Healthier Solutions

## Product Chemical Hazard Screening Report

APRIL 2022



### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**T**he Campaign for Healthier Solutions a project of Coming Clean Inc. and the Environmental Justice and Health Alliance commissioned The Ecology Center Healthy Stuff Lab to conduct a screening of consumer products sold at discount retailers, also

known as dollar stores. This report presents a summary of the results of the testing and highlights select products with hazardous chemicals of concern from 99 Cents Only Stores. Thirty-two (32) 99 Cents Only Stores products were purchased and tested.

**Sample Collection:** In early 2021, 226 products were purchased from all of the leading dollar store retailers in the US and Canada. Products were purchased from seven states (Michigan, Pennsylvania, California, New Mexico, Washington, Maine, Texas) and Ontario, Canada. Products tested included 226 consumer products, 33 cans of food, and 22 packages of microwave popcorn. Receipts from 28 store purchases were also tested. The 226 products contained a total of 635 unique components or materials. Each of these were tested using one or more test methods, depending on the typical chemicals of concern for that product type. For food products, the packaging, not the food, was tested.

Chemicals of concern are those which, due to their inherent hazardous properties, present a known or reasonably suspected risk to human health and/or the environment. The levels of concern for each chemical were established by Healthy Stuff Lab by reviewing levels restricted in one or more of the most protective government, corporate, or third-party standards on hazards in consumer products.

These levels are similar to those used in our 2015 sampling of dollar store products.

You can access the 2015 report [here](#)

Products were subjected to 4 different analytical techniques:

**High-definition X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy (HD XRF):** 635 product components were screened for elements of interest by HD XRF using an HD Mobile spectrometer by XOS. This technique measures levels of elements heavier than aluminum on the periodic table. This includes toxic metals such as lead and cadmium as well as bromine, chlorine, and phosphorus that, depending on the matrix, can indicate flame retardant chemicals.

**Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy:**

A subset of components were analyzed by FTIR to determine the polymer type (for example, cotton or polyethylene) and major additives. A subset were also subject to solvent extraction followed by FTIR to test for the presence of additives such as plasticizers or flame retardant chemicals.

**Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS)**

**Analysis:** Eleven products determined to contain ortho-phthalates (“phthalates”) or alternative plasticizers according to our FTIR screening were sent for further analysis at Eurofins, a contract laboratory.

Eurofins quantified phthalates by following the CPSC test method CPSC-CH-C1001-09.4. The method uses solvent extraction followed by internal standard addition and analysis of the extract by gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) for phthalates and other plasticizers of interest. The lab tested for eleven phthalates and four alternative plasticizers.

**Total Fluorine by Oxygen Flask Combustion and Ion-Selective Electrode:** Select food packaging was evaluated for possible PFAS presence at Galbraith Laboratories by measuring total fluorine. This method detects fluorine from both polymeric and non-polymeric PFAS and thus is used to screen items for likely PFAS.

Arsenic > 100	Bromine > 400	Cadmium > 100	Chlorine > 10,000	Chromium > 100	Mercury > 100	Lead > 100	Antimony > 100	Tin > 100
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**Threshold Levels, in parts per million**

## CHEMICAL HAZARD SCREENING SUMMARY

### 99 CENTS ONLY STORES

**T**he preliminary screening results for the 99 Cents Only Stores products indicate a number of chemical hazards are present in these products. **Overall, 41% of the products screened had one or more chemicals of concern.** The following concerns were identified in the products which were tested.

- Canned food products with BPA-based epoxy and PVC can body coatings
- Microwave popcorn products with PFAS coatings inside the packaging
- Bisphenol S in 100% of store receipts tested from all retailers
- Electronic products with >18% lead in solders
- Products made with flexible PVC which have plasticizers

#### Number of Products with Chemical of Concern (COC) Detected, above screening level

Retailer	# Products	1 or more COC	Percentage
99 Cents Only Stores	32	13	41%

*Note: This data is preliminary and subject to change as further analysis of these products is completed.*

## 99 CENTS ONLY STORES PRODUCTS TESTED, PRODUCT — BRAND/DISTRIBUTOR

Bathtime Buddies — Regal Babycare Co., Ltd.	Mickey Mouse Bag — Disney Legacy Licensing Partners
Bathtime Buddies Duck Family — Regal Babycare(China) Co., Ltd.	Minnie Mouse Pacifier — Disney baby
Bolis Icesticks — El Charrito Gramic Enterprises Inc	Noise Reducing Color Earbuds — Momentum Brands
Double Wall Mug — Momentum Brands	Nusery Bottles, 9 Ounces, 3 pack — Babies 2 Grow Regent Baby products
Double Wall Tumbler — Hello Spring Momentum Brands	Party Favor Value Pack — Momentum Brands
Evenflo Bottle — Evenflo Evenflo Feeding, Inc.	PicaTamarind — Vero Barcel USA LLC.
Fashion Doll — Greenbrier International, Inc.	Pink Fuzzy Socks — Kenneth Jones
Flora Pencil Case, Flowers — Homeware (China) Co.,LTD	Play Cash Cash Tray — Ja-Ru Inc. Midwood Brands,LLC
Flute Party Favors — Momentum Brands	Pozole Broth — Ocean's Halo New Frontier FoodsInc.
Forks — Party Momentum Brands	Refried Pinto Beans — Chata Chata
Glitter Girl Princess Set — Ja-Ru Inc.	Reusable 3 Section Divided Plate — Babies 2 Grow
Happy Easter Fillable Eggs — Momentum Brands	Sensory Balls — play & learn Regal Babycare Co.,Ltd.
Happy Easter Jump Rope, Carrot — Momentum Brands Momentum Brands	Spill Proof Cup — Babies 2 Grow Regent Baby Products Corp.
Iridescent Silver Paper Plates, 9 Inch — Momentum Brands	Travel Beverage Container, Red Cup — Gibson Home Gibson Overseas, Inc
Let's Be Friends! #Glamsquad Backpack — Let's Be Friends!/MGA Entertainment Accessory Inovations	Velvet Matte Lip Gloss — Smoke & Mirrors
Metalic Fringe Squawkers — Momentum Brands	

### FOOD PACKAGING SAMPLES

Tomato Paste — Summer is Inside	Chicken Vienna Sausage — Libbys
Beef with Juices — Lakeside	Kettle Corn Microwave Popcorn — Act II
Tomato Sauce — Hunt's	Butter Lover Microwave Popcorn — Act II
Sardines, Canned — Polar	Buttery Kettle Corn — Act II



## 99 CENTS ONLY STORES PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS

### NOISE REDUCING COLOR EARBUDS

**Retailer:** 99 Cents Only Stores  
**Brand/Distributor:** Momentum Brands  
**UPC:** 7641611875  
**Retailer State:** California  
**Chemicals of concern:** PVC components (>50% chlorine), Ortho Phthalate plasticizer, 18.3% (183,000 ppm) lead in solder



### ACT II, BUTTER LOVER MICROWAVE POPCORN

**Retailer:** 99 Cents Only Stores  
**Brand/Distributor:** Act II  
**UPC:** 7615023258  
**Retailer State:** California  
**Chemicals of concern:** 473 ppm Total Fluorine (PFAS grease-proof coating present)



### Summer is Inside Tomato Paste

**Retailer:** 99 Cents Only Stores  
**Brand/Distributor:** Summer is Inside  
**UPC:** 7393415078  
**Retailer State:** California  
**Chemicals of concern:** PVC copolymer can coating



**POLAR CANNED SARDINES**

**Retailer:** 99 Cents Only Stores  
**Brand/Distributor:** MW Polar Foods  
**UPC:** 7402700167  
**Retailer State:** California  
**Chemicals of concern:** BPA-based epoxy can coating



**LIBBY'S CHICKEN VIENNA SAUSAGE**

**Retailer:** 99 Cents Only Stores  
**Brand/Distributor:** Libby's  
**UPC:** 3900008669  
**Retailer State:** California  
**Chemicals of concern:** PVC copolymer can coating



**PURCHASE RECEIPTS**

**Retailer:** 99 Cents Only  
**UPC:** N/A  
**Retailer State:** Multiple  
**Chemicals of concern:** All receipts tested positive for Bisphenol S



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**T**he Campaign for Healthier Solutions, a project of the Environmental Justice Health Alliance for Chemical Policy Reform and Coming Clean, would like to recognize the anchor groups, affiliates, and partner organizations that were essential in moving this project forward. Their continued commitment to protect Environmental Justice Communities has made the campaign's progress over the years possible.

We also would like to give a special mention to the Ecology Center Healthy Stuff Lab for testing the products we purchased, then compiling, analyzing, and explaining the data for this report. We have worked with them numerous times in the past and look forward to future collaborations.

### CAMPAIGN FOR HEALTHIER SOLUTIONS ANCHOR GROUPS

**Los Jardines Institute** – Albuquerque, New Mexico  
**Líderes Campesinas** – Oxnard, California  
**Harambee House** – Savannah, Georgia

### AFFILIATES AND PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

**Physicians for Social Responsibility-LA** – Los Angeles, California  
**Learning Disabilities Association of Maine** – Windham, Maine  
**Environmental Defence Canada** – Toronto, Canada  
**Clean Production Action**

## CONTACT US

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