

CAMPAIGN FOR Healthier Solutions

Product Chemical Hazard Screening Report

APRIL 2022

**DOLLAR
GENERAL®**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 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 Dollar General. Thirty-seven (37) Dollar General products were purchased at six retailers in California, Maine, New Mexico and Pennsylvania.

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

DOLLAR GENERAL

The preliminary screening results for the Dollar General products indicate a number of chemical hazards are present in these products. **Overall, 43% 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 PVC based can body coatings
- Microwave popcorn products with PFAS coatings inside the packaging
- Bisphenol S in 100% of store receipts tested from all retailers
- 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
Dollar General	37	16	43%

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

DOLLAR GENERAL PRODUCTS TESTED, PRODUCT — BRAND/DISTRIBUTOR

321 Party, Party Favors & Pinata Fillers — Old EastMain Co.	Mixed Fruit Cups — Clover Valley/Dolgencorp, LLC
6 Bounce Balls — DG/Dolgencorp, LLC	Paw Patrol Teether Rattle Toy — Regent Baby Products Corp.
9 oz. Bottle Silicone Nipple — Swiggles	Pink Reusable Baggie — DG
Antibacterial Hand Sanitizer Spray — Dongguan Boze Technology Co. LTD	Plastic Tablecover, Multicolor 54 in. x 84 in. — DG/Dolgencorp, LLC
Baby King Sippy Cup — Regent Baby Products Corp.	Plates — Party!/Old East Main Co.
Bead Necklaces — Party!/Old East Main Co.	Princess Tiara — DG Party/Dolgencorp, LLC
Beef & Bean Burrito — Tina's	Pull-Top Sports Bottle — Kids 2 Grow
Clover Valley Crushed Tomatoes	Reusable Ice Cubes — trueliving/Old East Main Co.
Clover Valley Sweet Peas	Salsa Bowl — trueliving/Old East Main Co.
Clover Valley Shredded White Chicken	Spider-man Headphones — Tech2Go/Tech 2 Go, LLC
Cool Gear Double Wall Insulated Bottle — Cool Gear International, LLC	Super Realz Crocodile — Hedstrom
Fashion Choker, 5 pack — Old East Main Co.	Travel Coffee Cup — Old East Main Co.
Glad for Kids! Soak Proof Bowls — Brand Buzz LLC	Tutu Cute Set! — All Dressed Up! to Shine
Happy Easter Hand Sanitizer — Elegant HeadwearCo., Inc.	Twist & Shake Rattle — cribmates/Regent Baby Products Corp.
kidentials bow — Kidentials	Vinyl Tablecloth with Flannel Back — Trueliving
Marvel PET Bottle — Zak Designs, Inc.	Wacky Lips — Jokes & Gags/Ja-Ru Inc.
Metallic Bead Necklaces — 321 Party/Old East Main,Co.	Water Teether — Swiggles
Mighty Mustache — Ja-Ru Inc.	9 in. Round Cake Pan — True Living
Non-Stick Fry Pan Set — Evolution	

**DOLLAR
GENERAL**

DOLLAR GENERAL PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS

ORVILLE REDENBACHER'S POPCORN

Retailer: Dollar General
Retailer State: California
Chemicals of concern: 625 PPM Total Fluorine
(PFAS grease-proof coating present)



TRUE LIVING 9 IN. ROUND CAKE PAN

Retailer: Dollar General
UPC: 7286701468
Retailer State: Michigan
Chemicals of concern: PTFE (PFAS Fluoro-polymer)
+ PES (Polyethersulfone)



WACKY LIPS

Retailer: Dollar General
UPC: 7565601355
Retailer State: California
Chemicals of concern: PVC (>50% chlo-rine),
DOTP Plasticizer



CLOVER VALLEY SHREDDED WHITE CHICKEN

Retailer: Dollar General
Brand/Distributor: Clover Valley, Old East Main Co.
UPC: 1972216724
Retailer State: California
Chemicals of concern: PVC copolymer coating on interior of the can



EVOLUTION NON-STICK FRY PAN SET

Retailer: Dollar General
UPC: 635928028104
Retailer State: Michigan
Chemicals of concern: BPA-based Epoxy Coating



PURCHASE RECEIPTS

Retailer: Dollar General
UPC: N/A
Retailer State: Multiple
Chemicals of concern: All receipts tested positive for Bisphenol S



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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

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