

Reducing Exposure to Proposition 65-listed Chemicals: A California Success Story



Explore examples of how Proposition 65 has reduced your exposure to harmful chemicals in everyday consumer products and in many of California's neighborhoods.

FOOD, BEVERAGES, AND DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS

»»» Chocolate

In 2022, the California non-profit As You Sow and the National Confectioners Association released a report that identified the sources of lead and cadmium in chocolate products. The report identified feasible ways to reduce levels of lead and cadmium in these foods in both the short and long term. This work was the result of a 2018 settlement between As You Sow and 32 members of the confectionery industry. Read a summary of the report here.

Cadmium is listed for cancer and for reproductive toxicity, as it can harm the male reproductive system and the developing baby.

➤➤➤ Infant and Toddler Formula

In 2022, a settlement by the California Attorney General with Perrigo Company and two of its subsidiaries led the manufacturer to commit to reducing **lead** levels in its infant and toddler formula.



Lead is listed for cancer and for reproductive toxicity, as it can harm the male and female reproductive systems and the developing baby.

Cookies <<<

In 2016, a settlement by the California Attorney General with Mondelēz International, Inc., a manufacturer of Nabisco Ginger Snaps cookies, resulted in the manufacturer's commitment to reduce the level of **lead** in the cookies.

➤➤➤ Supplements

In 2019, a settlement by the California Attorney General with dietary supplement manufacturer Amazing Grass resulted in a commitment by the manufacturer to reduce the level of **lead** in a number of its products.

Exposure to lead is especially dangerous for young children, causing damage to the brain and nervous system.



Candies Flavored with Chili and/or Tamarind made in Mexico <<<

In 2006, a settlement by the California Attorney General with major candy manufacturers, including subsidiaries of the Hershey Company and Mars Inc., resulted in substantially reduced **lead** content in some types of Mexican candy popular with children.

➤➤➤ Soft Drinks

In 2006, a settlement by the California Attorney General with PepsiCo, Inc. eliminated the use of **lead in painted labels** on bottled soft drinks imported from Mexico.

Following the 2011 listing of 4-methylimidazole, a chemical found in some caramel coloring, several major soft drink companies reformulated their sodas to reduce the levels of this chemical.

4-Methylimidazole is listed for cancer.

➤➤➤ Potato Chips and French Fries

In 2008, a settlement by the California Attorney General with major processed food manufacturers, including Frito-Lay, Inc. and Heinz, Inc., resulted in the reduction of **acrylamide** in their potato chips and french fries.

Acrylamide is listed for cancer and reproductive toxicity, as it can harm the male reproductive system and the developing baby.



➤➤➤ There is more!

Proposition 65 helped reduce the amount of **lead** in calcium-based antacids, and the amount of **arsenic** in bottled water. It has also helped do away with **lead-containing foil caps** on wine bottles.

Arsenic is listed for cancer and reproductive toxicity, as it can harm the developing baby.

Children's Jewelry

In 2006, a settlement by the California Attorney General with dozens of major retailers and distributors, including Claire's Boutiques, Inc. and Toys "R" Us Inc., resulted in reduced **lead** content in children's jewelry.



PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS

Skin Creams

In 2025, a settlement by the California Attorney General with Amazon.com, Inc. (Amazon) resulted in Amazon agreeing to prevent the sale of skin-lightening face creams with mercury in California through its website.

Mercury is listed for reproductive toxicity, as it can harm the developing baby.

Toluene is listed for reproductive toxicity, as it can harm the developing baby.



Toothpaste, Hair Dye, Nail Care

Proposition 65 has helped reduce **lead** in toothpaste and hair dye; and removed toluene from nail care products.

>>> Socks

In 2024, the Center for Environmental Health (CEH) reached an agreement with dozens of clothing companies, including Asics America Corp and Hanesbrands/AYK International, whose socks contained high levels of **bisphenol A (BPA)**. The companies agreed to eliminate the chemical from their socks.



Bisphenol A (BPA) is listed for reproductive toxicity, as it can harm the female reproductive system and the developing baby.



Faucets <<<

In 1995, the California Attorney General reached a settlement with the manufacturers of faucets, including American Standard, Inc. and Moen Incorporated, over the significant leaching of **lead** into residential drinking water. The settlement required the businesses that manufactured and sold faucets to significantly reduce the amount of lead in their products.

>>> Paint Strippers

In 1992, a settlement between the Environmental Defense Fund and Tru-Test Manufacturing Co. required the manufacturer to reformulate their paint strippers to remove dichloromethane (methylene chloride).

Methylene chloride is listed for cancer.

Methylene chloride is highly toxic and can cause death at high levels of exposure.

DEHP is listed for cancer and reproductive toxicity, as it can harm the male reproductive system and the developing baby.

Checkbooks <<<

In 2014, a settlement with Deluxe Corporation, a major checkbook cover manufacturer, resulted in a reformulation of vinyl checkbook covers to remove the chemical di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (DEHP).

>>> Ceramic Tableware

In 1991, the California Attorney General reached a settlement with businesses that manufacture and sell ceramic tableware (plates, bowls, and cups), including Wedgwood USA, Inc., Royal Doulton USA Inc., and Mikasa, over significant leaching of **lead** from their products into food. The settlement required the manufacturers to reduce the lead content in their ceramic tableware products.



>>> East Oakland

In 2024, a settlement by the California Attorney General with AB&I Foundry held the company accountable for exposing East Oakland residents to **hexavalent chromium** and other chemicals at levels that exceeded regulatory limits. The settlement resulted in a reduction of air pollution and chemical emissions in the community, funding for health services to community members, and training for students in environmental science and advocacy strategies.

Chromium (Hexavalent Compounds) is listed for cancer and reproductive toxicity, as it can harm the male and female reproductive systems and the developing baby.

>>> West Oakland

In 2021, the California Attorney General, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, and the Alameda County District Attorney reached a settlement with Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc. (Schnitzer) for violating multiple environmental laws. These violations included the release of toxic air contaminants and hazardous particulates such as **lead** and **cadmium** while operating their metal shredding and recycling facility in West Oakland. The settlement required significant changes to Schnitzer's operations to protect the health of residents and the environment.



➤➤➤ Long Beach and Los Angeles

In 2011, the California Attorney General reached a settlement over exposure to **diesel engine exhaust** from cargo terminals at the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles. The settlement required the terminal operators to implement projects to reduce diesel emissions from their operations and to provide Proposition 65 warnings to nearby residents until diesel emissions no longer pose a significant risk to the community.

Diesel engine exhaust
is listed for cancer.

➤➤➤ Buena Park, El Monte, Glendale, San Leandro, Santa Fe Springs

In 2000, the California Attorney General reached a settlement with Albertsons/Luckys, Ralphs and Vons/Safeway over cancer-causing emissions from heavy-duty diesel trucks traveling to and from distribution centers operated by the grocery chains. The settlement required the grocery chains to provide Proposition 65 warnings to residents living near the centers about exposure to **diesel engine exhaust** and led to an agreement by the grocery chains to lower their diesel emissions.

