



# Cleaning Product Right to Know Act of 2017: Senate Bill 258

The Cleaning Product Right to Know Act requires cleaning products manufacturers to list ingredients on product labels and online to help protect consumers and workers -- a first in the nation.

## The Problem With Hidden Ingredients

Cleaning products are used by millions of Californians every day and contain thousands of chemicals -- many of which are toxic and have been associated with cancer, asthma and other respiratory damage, skin allergies, and reproductive, developmental, and hormonal changes. Studies have also shown that these chemicals can be found in urine, breast milk, and blood, including the umbilical cord blood of newborns. Unsafe chemicals in cleaning products can also pollute the environment when sprayed in the air or washed down the drain. In fact, the US Geological Survey found residual chemicals of laundry detergents in 70% of North American streams.

Just like families check labels on their food, drugs, cosmetics and other items brought into their homes, Californians have the right to know exactly what they are buying in the cleaning aisle. While ingredient labeling is mandatory for most components of food, cosmetics, and drugs, there are minimal requirements for cleaning products. This information allows families to choose products that suit their needs and helps protect consumers diagnosed with asthma or allergies from unintentional exposure. It also assists poison control centers and physicians to properly treat patients.

The cleaning workforce, which is predominantly comprised of women and low-income and minority workers, is disproportionately impacted by exposure to unsafe chemicals in cleaning products. Knowing what chemicals are included in a product is an important factor in helping consumers, workers and employers select products that minimize acute and chronic health impacts, particularly for vulnerable populations such as children, pregnant women, cancer survivors, and individual with health conditions and sensitivities.

Finally, there are no clear and consistent rules in the market for companies that want to voluntarily disclose information about their products -- creating confusion and an unfair playing field for businesses that want to do the right thing.

## The Solution

SB 258 -- The Cleaning Products Right to Know Act of 2017 -- requires cleaning products sold in California to disclose on the product label and website, among other information, hazardous ingredients and contaminants, including harmful fragrance ingredients.

Californians overwhelmingly support full disclosure of the chemicals found in cleaning products. This critical first step gives workers, consumers and families consistent access to important information about the chemicals they are exposed to every day.

Go to [www.womensvoices.org/take-action](http://www.womensvoices.org/take-action) to voice your support for the bill.

*Hidden chemicals in cleaning products have been linked to cancer, asthma and other respiratory damage, skin allergies, and reproductive, developmental, and hormonal changes.*

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