

Get the **FACTS** on FRAGRANCE

WHAT IS FRAGRANCE?

Fragrance refers to any ingredient or mixture of ingredients intended to **convey a scent**, or **mask an odor**. Fragrance can come from both natural sources (plants, flowers, foods) as well as synthetically manufactured fragrances. A manufactured fragrance can be composed of **tens to hundreds of** individual fragrance **chemicals**, but it most often simply listed by the generic term “fragrance”.



TOXIC SECRETS

Most manufacturers do not disclose fragrance ingredients on websites or on the product label. These **TOXIC SECRETS** put public health at risk.

WHY IS FRAGRANCE A PROBLEM?

Many chemicals used in fragrance are linked to health and environmental harm, including:

- ! **Carcinogens**
styrene, methyl eugenol, pyridine and BHA
- ! **Reproductive toxins**
phthalates, lialil and nonylphenol
- ! **Skin allergens**
linalool, hexyl cinnamal, geraniol, and HICC
- ! **Neurotoxicants**
xylenes and phenol

DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACTS

Women have 2-3 times greater risk of fragrance skin allergies than men.

Hairdressers and beauticians have a 47-fold higher risk of fragrance skin allergies than people in other occupations. **Massage therapists** and **geriatric nurses** also have higher rates of fragrance contact allergy.

The California Work-Related Asthma Prevention Program has documented that use of fragranced products in the workplace is associated with **work-related-asthma**.

HARM TO HEALTH

Allergies: Between 2-11% of the population experience skin allergies to fragrance.

Respiratory Issues: Exacerbations of asthma and COPD can be triggered by fragrance exposure.

Neurological impacts: Migraines are associated with fragrance.

Reactions are common: In a US national survey, 34% of respondents reported health problems like migraines & respiratory difficulties regarding exposure to fragranced products.

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION



Persistent and bioaccumulative fragrance ingredients such as synthetic musks have been detected in rivers and lakes, drinking water, sediment, air, and all kinds of wildlife from fish to birds to harbor seals. Musks are also commonly found in human blood, fat tissue and breastmilk.

WHAT IS **IFRA**?

The fragrance industry is virtually **self-regulated** through the **International Fragrance Association (IFRA)**. The safety of fragrance is not determined or monitored by any governmental agency in any comprehensive way.

FRAGRANCE IS EVERYWHERE!

There is ubiquitous use of “fragrance” in household products -- from perfumes, lotions, tampons and shampoo, to detergents, candles, air fresheners and cleaners -- making fragrance exposure impossible to completely avoid.



of shampoos



of conditioners



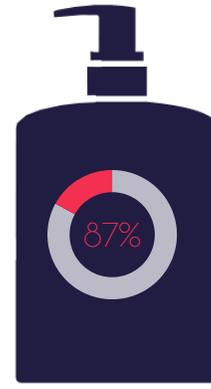
of hair styling
products



of antiperspirants



of shaving
products



of lotions



of sunscreens

Did you know?

Using fragrance in your home has been linked to significant increases in toxic indoor air pollutants.



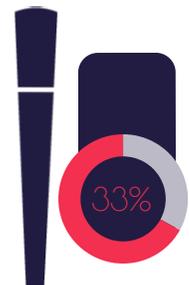
of lip
moisturizers



of lipsticks



of foundations



of blushes &
eyeliners

5 WAYS TO TAKE ON TOXIC FRAGRANCE!

1 Support Fragrance-Free Public Spaces

The American Lung Association provides sample fragrance-free policies to submit to your workplace, schools, gyms, etc. Visit bit.ly/FFPublicSpaces

2 Advocate for Better Regulation

Contact decision makers to support legislation that requires fragrance ingredient disclosure and strict chemical safety screening that puts public health first. Ask WVE about policies in your area.

3 Contact Companies Directly

Call customer service numbers and tell companies to disclose all fragrance chemicals and eliminate harmful ingredients.

4 Educate and Engage Others

Print this flyer to help start a conversation with neighbors, co-workers, or post on a community board. Write an LTE to your local paper on the problem with fragrance.

5 Text FRAGRANCE to 52886

And stay updated on ways you can get involved with others in your area to take on toxic fragrance chemicals!



WOMEN'S VOICES
FOR THE EARTH
OUR HEALTH. OUR FUTURE. TOXIC FREE.

References at:
www.womensvoices.org/Fword

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