

What retailers, policymakers, and brands need to know

Insights from the Retailer Report Card on trends, policies, and best practices

Mike Schade

Director of Mind the Store

Cheri Peele

Director of Markets and Regulatory Policy



A graphic titled "2024 Retailer Report Card" featuring a shopping cart icon. The background is a grid of various retail logos including Stop & Shop, Popeyes, Office Depot, Home Sense, Food Lion, Rite Aid, Aldi, Amazon, IKEA, Harris, DG, Starbucks, Five Below, Pizza Hut, Smith's, Public Lands, Target, McDonald's, Sephora, J.J. John's Sandwiches, Kohl's, Trader Joe's, and Randall's. The text "2024 Retailer Report Card" is in a green box and blue text, and "Where do your favorite retailers rank?" is in large black text at the bottom.

Speakers



Mike Schade

Director of Mind the Store



Cheri Peele

*Director of Markets and
Regulatory Policy*

Webinar logistics

- Type questions in the “Q&A” section
(names of those asking questions will not be shared)
- Webinar is being recorded, including Q&A
- Slides and recording will be shared via e-mail

Overview

- Background and purpose
- Four Essential Elements for a Safer Marketplace
- Findings
- Recommendations & next steps
- Q&A



Background and purpose

What we do



Scientific
Research



Policy
Advocacy



Market
Transformation

Hazard Framework: Chemical of High Concern

- Criteria:
 - Carcinogen, mutagen, or reproductive (CMR) toxicant; or
 - Persistent, bioaccumulative toxicant (PBT); or
 - Chemical of equivalent concern (e.g., endocrine disruptor); or
 - Chemical that breaks down into one of the above
- Aligned with:
 - European Union REACH legislation – Substance of Very High Concern
 - Safer Products for Washington law
 - US EPA Safer Choice Master Criteria
 - GreenScreen Benchmark-1
 - ChemFORWARD Bands D and F

Human exposure to toxic chemicals from consumer products

- Breast milk is considered the best food for babies
- 2019: 50 breast milk samples collected from Seattle area
- Four peer-reviewed studies
 - 2021: PFAS
 - 2021: Organophosphate plasticizers and flame retardants
 - 2022: Quaternary ammonium compounds (Quats)
 - 2023: Brominated flame retardants

Human exposure to toxic chemicals from consumer products

- Breast milk is considered the best food for babies
- 2019: 50 breast milk samples collected from Seattle area



pubs.acs.org/est

Article

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in Breast Milk: Concerning Trends for Current-Use PFAS

Guomao Zheng, Erika Schreder, Jennifer C. Dempsey, Nancy Uding, Valerie Chu, Gabriel Andres, Sheela Sathyanarayana, and Amina Salamova*



pubs.acs.org/journal/estclu

Letter

Organophosphate Esters and Their Metabolites in Breast Milk from the United States: Breastfeeding Is an Important Exposure Pathway for Infants

Guomao Zheng, Erika Schreder, Jennifer C. Dempsey, Nancy Uding, Valerie Chu, Gabriel Andres, Sheela Sathyanarayana, and Amina Salamova*

www.nature.com/jes

Journal of Exposure Science & Environmental Epidemiology

ARTICLE

Check for updates

The first detection of quaternary ammonium compounds in breast milk: Implications for early-life exposure

Guomao Zheng¹, Erika Schreder², Sheela Sathyanarayana³ and Amina Salamova⁴✉

Environmental Pollution 334 (2023) 122028

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Environmental Pollution

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/envpol



ELSEVIER

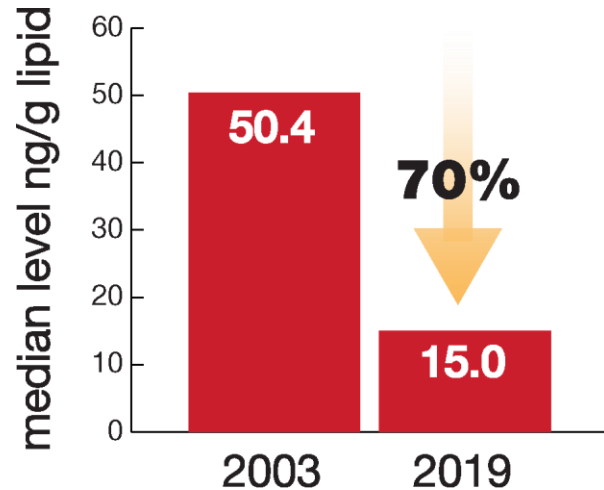


Brominated flame retardants in breast milk from the United States: First detection of bromophenols in U.S. breast milk[☆]

Erika Schreder^{a,*}, Guomao Zheng^b, Sheela Sathyanarayana^{c,d}, Navya Gunaje^d, Min Hu^b, Amina Salamova^e

Phaseouts work

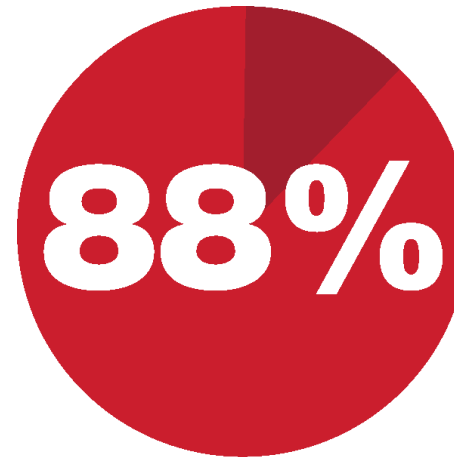
PBDEs



- Found in 100% of samples
- 70% decline from 2003 samples from U.S. Northwest
- Phased out from furniture (2004) & electronics (2013)

Beware regrettable substitutes

Bromophenols



- Found in 88% of samples
- First detection in U.S. breast milk
- State policies have since been enacted to restrict organohalogen flame retardants (OFRs)

What we know

- Toxic chemicals escape from both formulated products and articles
- Humans are exposed to multiple hazardous chemicals simultaneously
- Lack of disclosure makes it challenging to address exposures
- When chemicals are phased out, human exposure decreases
- Regrettable substitutes need to be actively avoided

We must move to known safer alternatives.



Retailer Report Card

Ranking retailers on toxic chemicals

- Benchmark safer chemicals policies and implementation
- Use publicly available information
- Grade against best-in-class approaches
- Highlight leaders and laggards
- Drive competitive race to the top
- Media coverage of the 2024 report:
 - 340+ stories and mentions, nearly 50% increase in media coverage



☰ **CNN Health** Life, But Better Fitness Food Sleep Mindfulness Relationships © Watch 🔊 Listen

life | but better

Toxic chemical 'Hall of Shame' calls out retailers in time for holiday shopping

By Sandee LaMotte, CNN
🕒 7 minute read · Published 2:00 AM EST, Thu November 14, 2024

The 2024 Retailer Report Card

2024 Retailer Report Card



2024 Retailer Report Card

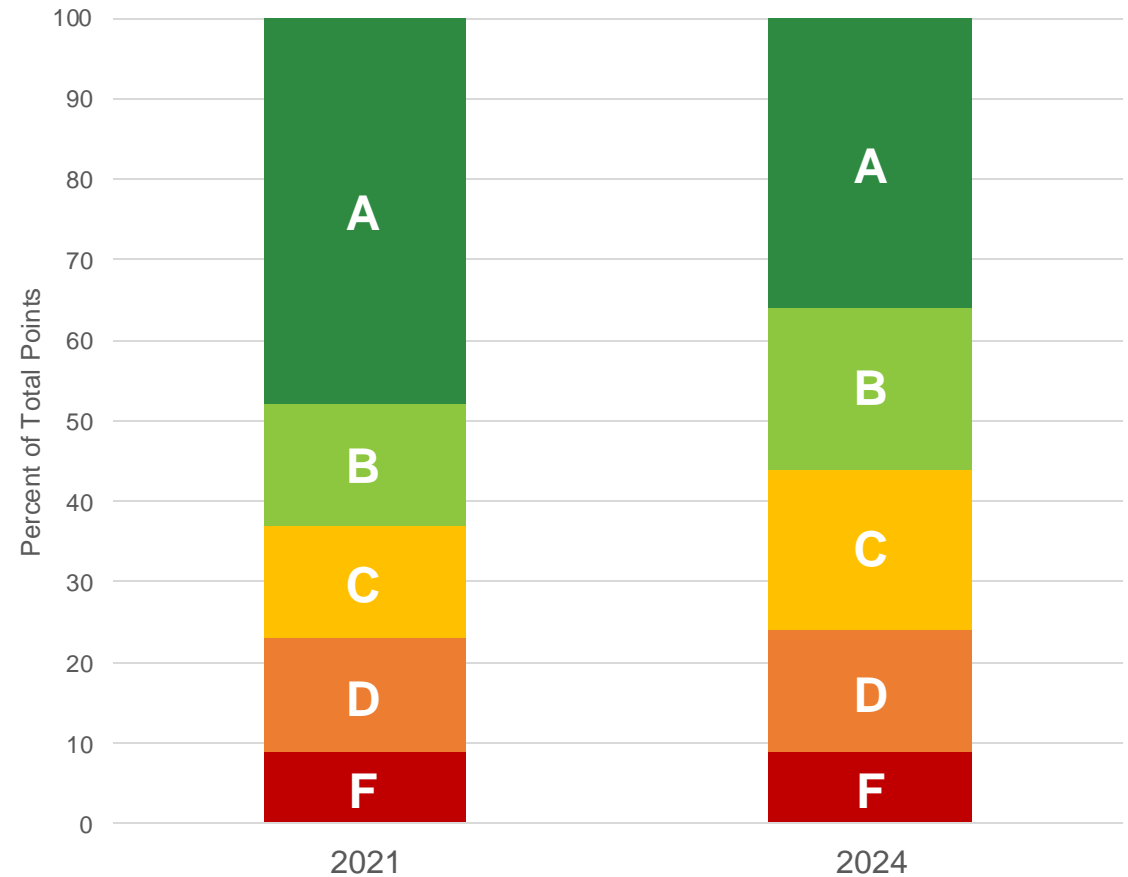


7-Eleven	CVS	Helly Hansen	Mariano's	Publix	Subway
ACME Markets	Dick's Sporting Goods	HomeGoods	Mark's	QFC	Super C
Ahold Delhaize	Dillons	HomeSense	Market Street	Rachelle Bery	T&T Supermarket
Albertsons	Dollar General	IGA	Marshalls	Ralphs	Taco Bell
ALDI	Dollar Tree	IGA Extra	Maxi	Randalls	Target
Alimentation Couche-Tard	Duane Reade	IKEA	McDonald's	Real Canadian Superstore	The Habit
Amazon	Dunkin'	Independent	Metro	REI	The Home Depot
Amigos	Extra Foods	Ingo	Metro Market	Restaurant Brands International	Thrifty Foods
Andronico's	Family Dollar	Inspire Brands	Moosejaw	Rite Aid	Tim Horton's
Apple	Firehouse Subs	Jay C Food Stores	Needs	Ruler Foods	TJ Maxx
Arby's	Five Below	Jean Coutu	No Frills	Safeway	TJX
Atlantic Superstore	Food 4 Less	Jewel Osco	Nordstrom	Sally Beauty	Tom Thumb
Baker's	Food Basics	Jimmy John's	Office Depot	Sam's Club	Trader Joe's
Balducci's	Food Lion	KFC	Office Max	Sephora	Ultra Beauty
Bartell Drugs	Foodland	King Soopers	Pak'n Save Foods	Shaw's	United Supermarkets
Baskin Robbins	Foods Co	Kings Food Market	Panera Bread	Sherwin-Williams	Valu-Mart
Best Buy	Fortinos	Kohl's	Party City	Shopper's Drug Mart	Vons
Brunet	Fred Meyer	Kroger	Pavilions	Sierra	Walgreens
Buffalo Wild Wings	FreshCo	Lawton Drugs	Pay-Less Super Markets	Smith's	Walmart
Burger King	Fry's	Les Marches Tradition	Peapod	Sobey's	Whole Foods Market
Canadian Tire	Gerbes	LL Flooring	PetSmart	Sonic	Wholesale Club
Carrs	Giant-Landover	Loblaw	Pick'n Save	SportChek	Yum! Brands
Chipotle	Giant-Martins	Lowe's	Pizza Hut	Staples	Zehrs Markets
Circle K	Golf Galaxy	Lucky	Popeyes	Star Market	
City Market	Haggen	Macy's	Premiere Moisson	Starbucks	
Costco	Hannaford	Marche Richelieu	Provigo	Stop & Shop	
Couche-Tard	Harris Teeter	Marche Bonichoix	Public Lands		

What's new?

- Updated criteria
- Redistributed points
- Ban the Bad Priority List

Retailer Report Card
Simplified Grading Scale:
2021 and 2024



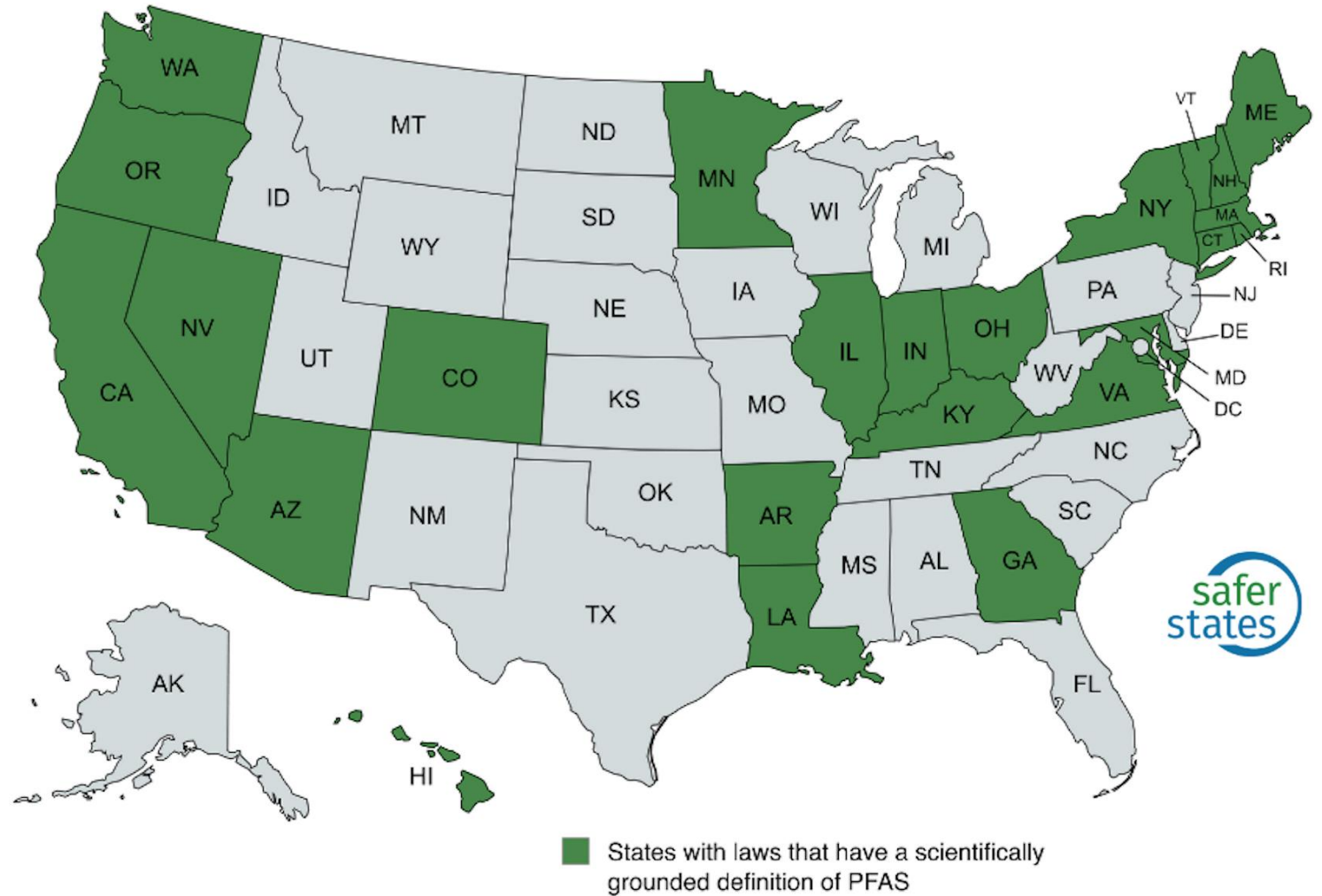
Ban the Bad Priority List

- Chemicals, chemical classes & groups, and plastics
- Prioritized based on:
 - Known use in consumer products
 - High hazard
- Defines chemical classes & groups
- Includes chemicals of high concern for beauty products of environmental justice concern



Ban the Bad Priority List:

States with
aligned PFAS
definition



Four Essential Elements for a Safer Marketplace

Revised Rubric: Four Essential Elements for a Safer Marketplace



**Corporate
Commitment**

20 points



Transparency

40 points



Ban the Bad

45 points



**Safer
Solutions**

50 points

Total points: 155 (with beauty products: 165)

Four Essential Elements for a Safer Marketplace



Corporate Commitment



Transparency

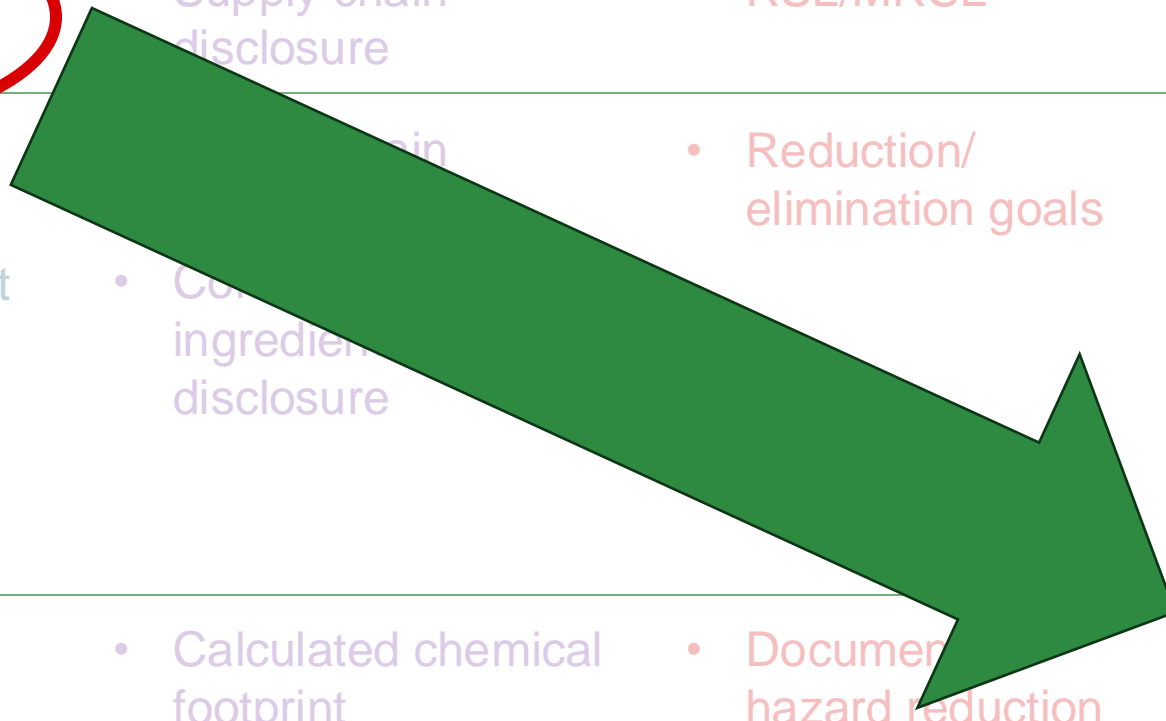


Ban the Bad



Safer Solutions

	Corporate Commitment	Transparency	Ban the Bad	Safer Solutions
Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate chemicals policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply chain disclosure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RSL/MRSL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definition of "safer alternative"
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management accountability Chemical Footprint Project Collaboration Public policy support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply chain disclosure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction/elimination goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment in safer solutions Implementation of known safer solutions
Metric		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calculated chemical footprint 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documented hazard reduction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantified safer products



Findings

Retail leaders



Apple
A



Sephora
A-



Target
A-



Walmart
A-



Whole
Foods
B



IKEA
B



Ulta
Beauty
B-

Average grade for all retailers in the RRC: **D+**

Improved scores: 38% of retailers

- Amazon
 - Apple
 - Best Buy
 - Canadian Tire
 - Dick's Sporting Goods
 - IKEA
 - Lowe's
 - Metro
 - Panera Bread
 - Restaurant Brands International (RBI)
 - Sephora
 - Staples
 - Starbucks
 - Sobeys
 - Subway
 - Target
 - TJX
 - **Ulta Beauty**
 - Walmart
- Most improved!**

Improved scores, improved grades

- Amazon
- Apple
- Best Buy
- Canadian Tire
- Dick's Sporting Goods
- IKEA
- Lowe's
- Metro
- Panera Bread
- Restaurant Brands International (RBI)
- Sephora
- Staples
- Starbucks
- Sobeys
- Subway
- Target
- TJX
- Ulta Beauty
- Walmart

2024 Toxic Hall of Shame: Received **F** grade



Couche-Tard



fiVE BEL°W

INSPIRE
Brands



★ macy's



NORDSTROM



SALLY BEAUTY



sobeys

SUBWAY

TRADER JOE'S



7-ELEVEN

2024 Retailer Report Card Average Score by Element (% of total possible points)



Corporate Commitment

36%



Transparency

18%



Ban the Bad

33%



Safer Solutions

12%

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%



Corporate Commitment: **Most progress**

Percent of retailers:

- With corporate chemicals policies: 56%
- That participate in the Chemical Footprint Project: 16%

Five retailers supported governmental policies to reduce chemicals & plastics of concern





Transparency: Supplier Disclosure

Percent of retailers that **ask suppliers** to disclose chemical content of products:

- For retailer's internal use: 46%
- To consumers: 44%

Leading suppliers require disclosure through tools like UL WERCSmart





Ban the Bad: Goals

Percent of retailers with public, time-bound goals to reduce or eliminate:

- Chemicals & plastics: 44%
- PFAS: 30%
- PVC plastic: 20%

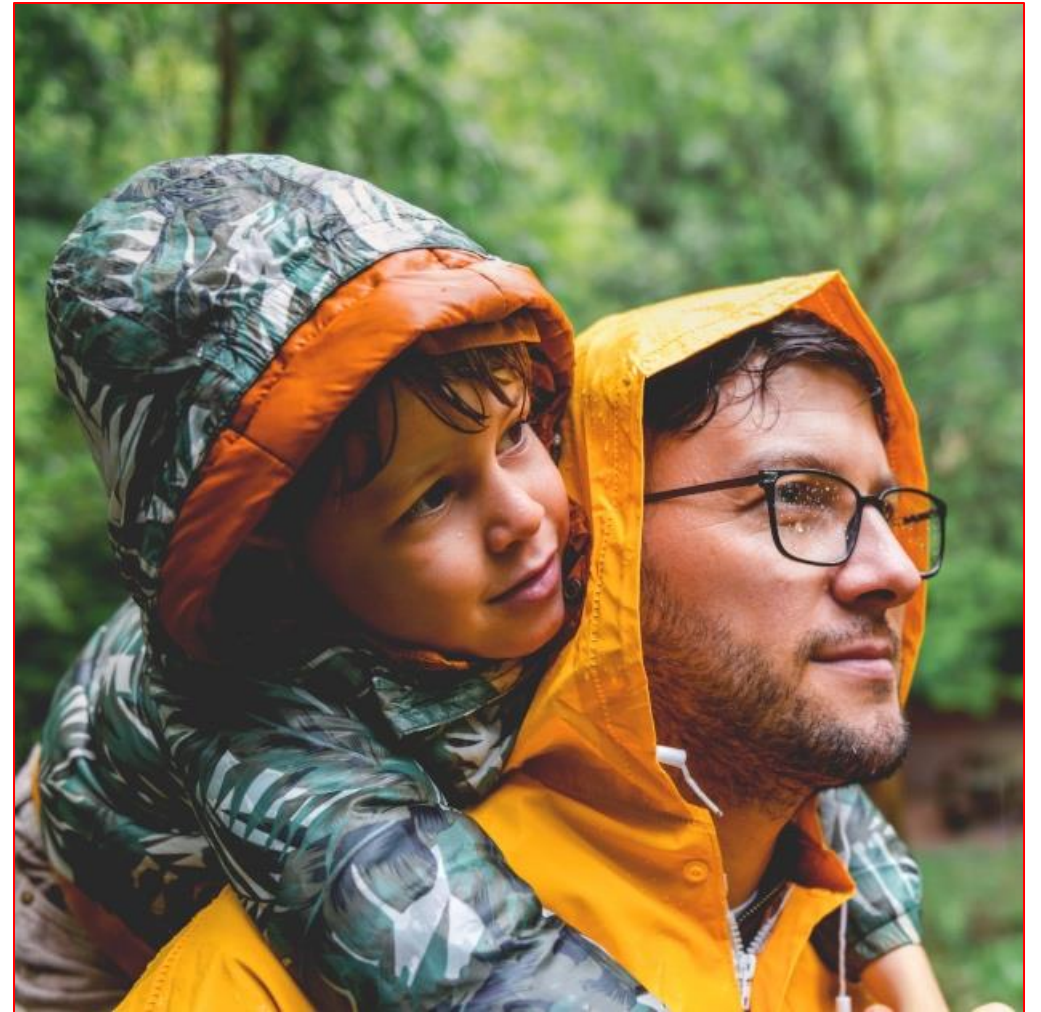




Ban the Bad: Progress

Percent of retailers reporting reductions or elimination:

- Chemicals & plastics: 68%
- PFAS (“forever chemicals”): 30%
- Polystyrene or expanded polystyrene plastics: 20%





Safer Solutions: More Work Needed

- **80%** of retailers are **failing to ensure Safer Solutions** to toxic chemicals and plastics.
- **20%** of retailers **have adopted criteria for safer alternatives** that align with WA state definition
- **16%** percent of retailers have **made financial investments** in identifying or developing safer solutions

**A SAFER CHOICE
FOR YOUR FAMILY**

Look for EPA's Safer Choice label
on household cleaning products


**SAFER
CHOICE**
Meets U.S. EPA
Safer Product
Standards™

epa.gov/saferchoice









Safer ingredients for people and the planet

2024 RETAILER REPORT CARD

Target



TOTAL SCORE	RANK
107.5	3
OUT OF 165	OUT OF 50

 Corporate Commitment 	14.5 / 20
 Transparency 	16 / 44
 Ban the Bad 	47 / 51
 Safer Solutions 	30 / 50

Key Findings and Recommendations

- **Corporate Commitment:** Target adopted a comprehensive safer chemicals policy in 2017, which applies to both private-label and brand-name products and includes a clear preference for safer alternatives. Target participates in the Chemical Footprint Project Survey but does not make its score public. Target should publicly support governmental policies to reduce chemicals and plastics of high concern.



Retailer Report Card

The 2024 Report

- I. [Executive Summary](#)
- II. [Introduction](#)
- III. [Grades](#)
- IV. [Leaders and Laggards](#)
- V. [Key Findings](#)
- VI. [Recommendations](#)
- VII. [Resources](#)
- VIII. [Methodology](#)
- IX. [About this Report](#)

More

-  [Press Release](#)
-  [What Consumers Can Do](#)


 [Retailer Report Card Home](#)

SELECT A RETAILER

 Target

2024 RETAILER REPORT CARD

Target



TOTAL SCORE	RANK
107.5	3
OUT OF 165	OUT OF 50

-  **Corporate Commitment**  **14.5 / 20**
-  **Transparency**  **16 / 44**
-  **Ban the Bad**  **47 / 51**
-  **Safer Solutions**  **30 / 50**

Key Findings and Recommendations

- Corporate Commitment:** Target adopted a comprehensive safer chemicals policy in 2017, which applies to both private-label and brand-name products and includes a clear preference for safer alternatives. Target participates in the Chemical Footprint Project Survey but does not make its score public. Target should publicly support governmental policies to reduce chemicals and plastics of high concern.



Retailer Report Card

The 2024 Report

- [I. Executive Summary](#)
- [II. Introduction](#)
- [III. Grades](#)
- [IV. Leaders and Laggards](#)
- [V. Key Findings](#)
- [VI. Recommendations](#)
- [VII. Resources](#)
- [VIII. Methodology](#)
- [IX. About this Report](#)

More

- [Press Release](#)
- [What Consumers Can Do](#)


[Retailer Report Card Home](#)

SELECT A RETAILER









 Target

2024 RETAILER REPORT CARD

Target



TOTAL SCORE	RANK
107.5	3
OUT OF 165	OUT OF 50

 Corporate Commitment 	14.5 / 20
 Transparency 	16 / 44
 Ban the Bad 	47 / 51
 Safer Solutions 	30 / 50

Key Findings and Recommendations

- **Corporate Commitment:** Target adopted a comprehensive safer chemicals policy in 2017, which applies to both private-label and brand-name products and includes a clear preference for safer alternatives. Target participates in the Chemical Footprint Project Survey but does not make its score public. Target should publicly support governmental policies to reduce chemicals and plastics of high concern.



Retailer Report Card

The 2024 Report

- [I. Executive Summary](#)
- [II. Introduction](#)
- [III. Grades](#)
- [IV. Leaders and Laggards](#)
- [V. Key Findings](#)
- [VI. Recommendations](#)
- [VII. Resources](#)
- [VIII. Methodology](#)
- [IX. About this Report](#)

More

- [Press Release](#)
- [What Consumers Can Do](#)

[Retailer Report Card Home](#)

SELECT A RETAILER

 Target



Ban the Bad i

Points = 47 out of 51





Ban the Bad i

Points = 47 out of 51



● = Excellent ● = Some action ● = No action

**RESTRICTED SUBSTANCES LIST (RSL)/
MANUFACTURING
RESTRICTED SUBSTANCES
LIST (MRSL)**

23 out of 23

i Points Details

**REDUCTION/ELIMINATION
GOALS**

5 out of 5

i Points Details

**CHEMICALS AND PLASTICS
REDUCTION**

Reduced or eliminated toxic
chemicals or plastics of high
concern

19 out of 23

i Points Details



Ban the Bad i

Points = 47 out of 51



● = Excellent ● = Some action ● = No action

**RESTRICTED SUBSTANCES LIST (RSL)/
MANUFACTURING RESTRICTED SUBSTANCES LIST (MRSL)**

23 out of 23

i Points Details

REDUCTION/ELIMINATION GOALS

5 out of 5

i Points Details

CHEMICALS AND PLASTICS REDUCTION

Reduced or eliminated toxic chemicals or plastics of high concern

19 out of 23

i Points Details

CHEMICALS AND PLASTICS REDUCTION x

19 OUT OF 23 POINTS

In 2020, Target announced it was eliminating bisphenols in thermal receipt paper: "(b)y end of year 2020, Target expects to fully convert to phenol-free receipt paper for use in all standard and mobile-device checkout lanes."

More recently, the company announced through its Building Blocks for Better Products (B3P) initiative, Target helped 26 women- and BIPOC-founded beauty and personal care businesses to phase out harmful or undesirable ingredients from their products.

Target has also made progress increasing its assortment of formulated products that are part of its Target Clean program, which means the products are free of phthalates, propyl- & butyl-parabens, formaldehyde donors, musks, nonylphenol ethoxylates, ethanolamines, glycol ethers, siloxanes, and perfluorinated substances. As of year-end 2023, it increased the number of products in Target Clean by approximately 10 percent year over year, to a total of around 5,000 individual items.

Finally, Target has made progress reducing the use of plastics of high concern (PHCs). Between 2017 and 2022, expanded polystyrene (EPS) has been removed from the packaging of 734 items. The company has also piloted a program to transition from polyvinyl chloride (PVC) gift cards to paper gift cards.

[Glossary of terms](#)



Ban the Bad i

Points = 47 out of 51



● = Excellent ● = Some action ● = No action

RESTRICTED SUBSTANCES LIST (RSL)/
MANUFACTURING RESTRICTED SUBSTANCES LIST (MRSL)
23 out of 23

i Points Details

REDUCTION/ELIMINATION GOALS
5 out of 5

i Points Details

CHEMICALS AND PLASTICS REDUCTION

Reduced or eliminated toxic chemicals or plastics of high concern

19 out of 23

i Points Details

CHEMICALS AND PLASTICS REDUCTION

19 OUT OF 23 POINTS

In 2020, Target announced it was eliminating bisphenols in thermal receipt paper: "(b) by end of year 2020, Target expects to fully convert to phenol-free receipt paper for use in all standard and mobile-device checkout lanes."

More recently, the company announced through its Building Blocks for Better Products (B3P) initiative, Target helped 26 women- and BIPOC-founded beauty and personal care businesses to phase out harmful or undesirable ingredients from their products.

Target has also made progress increasing its assortment of formulated products that are part of its Target Clean program, which means the products are free of phthalates, propyl- & butyl-parabens, formaldehyde donors, musks, nonylphenol ethoxylates, ethanolamines, glycol ethers, siloxanes, and perfluorinated substances. As of year-end 2023, it increased the number of products in Target Clean by approximately 10 percent year over year, to a total of around 5,000 individual items.

Finally, Target has made progress reducing the use of plastics of high concern (PHCs). Between 2017 and 2022, expanded polystyrene (EPS) has been removed from the packaging of 734 items. The company has also piloted a program to transition from polyvinyl chloride (PVC) gift cards to paper gift cards.

[Glossary of terms](#)

How does Target compare to its competitors?

Apparel	Baby/Children	Beauty/Personal Care
Drugstore	Electronics	Furniture/Home Goods
Groceries	Pet Supplies	



Ban the Bad i

Points = 47 out of 51



● = Excellent ● = Some action ● = No action

RESTRICTED SUBSTANCES LIST (RSL)/
MANUFACTURING RESTRICTED SUBSTANCES LIST (MRSL)

23 out of 23

i Points Details

REDUCTION/ELIMINATION GOALS

5 out of 5

i Points Details

CHEMICALS AND PLASTICS REDUCTION

Reduced or eliminated toxic chemicals or plastics of high concern

19 out of 23

i Points Details

CHEMICALS AND PLASTICS REDUCTION

19 OUT OF 23 POINTS

In 2020, Target announced it was eliminating bisphenols in thermal receipt paper: "(b) by end of year 2020, Target expects to fully convert to phenol-free receipt paper for use in all standard and mobile-device checkout lanes."

More recently, the company announced through its Building Blocks for Better Products (B3P) initiative, Target helped 26 women- and BIPOC-founded beauty and personal care businesses to phase out harmful or undesirable ingredients from their products.

Target has also made progress increasing its assortment of formulated products that are part of its Target Clean program, which means the products are free of phthalates, propyl- & butyl-parabens, formaldehyde donors, musks, nonylphenol ethoxylates, ethanolamines, glycol ethers, siloxanes, and perfluorinated substances. As of year-end 2023, it increased the number of products in Target Clean by approximately 10 percent year over year, to a total of around 5,000 individual items.

Finally, Target has made progress reducing the use of plastics of high concern (PHCs). Between 2017 and 2022, expanded polystyrene (EPS) has been removed from the packaging of 734 items. The company has also piloted a program to transition from polyvinyl chloride (PVC) gift cards to paper gift cards.

[Glossary of terms](#)

How does Target compare to its competitors?

Apparel	Baby/Children	Beauty/Personal Care
Drugstore	Electronics	Furniture/Home Goods
Groceries	Pet Supplies	

Previous Grade History

NOTE: Our evaluation criteria changed in 2024. The scores from previous review years through 2021 are based on a different set of criteria measured.

Click or tap on a grade year to review additional details (where available).

2016	2017	2018	2019	2021	2024
B	B+	A	A	A+	A-



Recommendations

Recommendations

- Use evaluations as a gap analysis
- Review the efforts of competitors
- Learn from high scoring retailers
- Meet with Mind the Store staff to review evaluations

Next steps

Next steps

- Additional analysis of data
- Beauty and personal care products: Funding available to do chemical hazard assessments for limited number of ingredients
- Next Retailer Report Card evaluation and publication in 2026

Thank you

Mike Schade

mschade@toxicfreefuture.org

Cheri Peele

cpeele@toxicfreefuture.org

RetailerReportCard.com



Q & A