

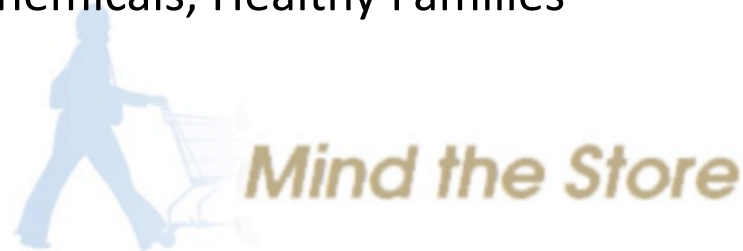


## ***Who's Minding the Store?***

### **A report card on retailer actions to eliminate toxic chemicals**

Mike Schade, Mind the Store Campaign Director  
Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families

Mike Belliveau, Executive Director of the Environmental Health Strategy Center &  
Senior Advisor to Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families





A national effort to protect families from toxic chemicals.



### Join the Movement

Thousands of people are pushing Congress and retailers for strong action on toxic chemicals.

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Act Now

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Mind the Store

Who We Are

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### Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families Releases New Report on Lead Screening of Children

Universal Testing Key to Prevention of Long-Term Developmental Damage

Safari 9, 2017 in [Lead](#), [Policy & Regulation](#)

### EPA proposes limits on use of paint remover chemicals

Posted Jan 13, 2017 in [Policy & Regulation](#)

### EPA proposes banning additional uses of TCE

Posted Jan 11, 2017 in [Policy & Regulation](#)



ADAO congratulates Canada on comprehensive asbestos ban by 2018, sees this as opportunity for U.S. to swiftly follow suit

Posted Dec 15, 2016 in [Policy & Regulation](#)



Policy & Regulation



Health Science



Find Safer Products



Mind the Store



Lead



Environmental Impacts



Actions & Events



Communities

# SaferChemicals.org



## Mind the Store



### Parents & advocates deliver 125,000 petition signatures on BPA to Albertsons' headquarters

A group of concerned parents, other consumers and Conservation Voters for Idaho gathered with signs in front of Albertsons' headquarters in Boise before delivering 125,000 petition signatures to Albertsons demanding an end to the use of BPA in its food packaging.

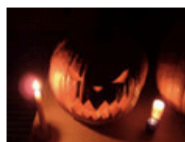
Posted Nov 17, 2016



### New report shows big retailers cracking down on toxic

### chemicals in consumer products but others remain serious laggards

Posted Nov 16, 2016



### Don't get tricked into buying toxic Halloween products

Posted Oct 27, 2016



### At Costco members get good prices, organic produce, and

### toxic flame retardants



Why retailers?



Latest updates



Hazardous 100+



Top Retailers



For retailers



How you can help

### Who's Minding the Store?

A report card on retailer actions to eliminate toxic chemicals



# MindTheStore.org



# Ten retailers urged to pull potentially toxic products

Wendy Koch, @wendykoch, USA TODAY 10:43 a.m. EDT April 10, 2013

*How safe is your shampoo, sofa or shirt? Campaign launches Thursday to prod 10 major retailers to phase out potentially toxic products. It says industry needs to act because U.S. government isn't.*

f 2973

t 287

in 18

34



(Photo: Katy Martens, USA TODAY)

f 2973 CONNECT t 287 TWEET in 18 LINKEDIN 34 COMMENT EMAIL MORE

Health and environmental groups will launch a national campaign Thursday to prod 10 major retailers — including [Walmart](#), [Target](#) and [Costco](#) — to clear store shelves of products containing hazardous chemicals.

Advocates say these companies have done some "retail regulation" but argue more needs to be done and the U.S. government isn't stepping up. They list 100-plus chemicals used in hundreds, possibly thousands, of products including wrinkle-free clothes, vinyl flooring, shampoos, sofa cushions and food packaging.

### STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- Walmart, Target and Costco will be urged to pull some items from shelves
- Advocates say retailers have taken some steps but more



Mind the Store

# Before you shop this holiday season...

Find out which retailers performed well, and which earned failing grades on toxic chemicals.

Mind  
the  
Store

Visit [RetailerReportCard.org](http://RetailerReportCard.org)

How retailers rank on tackling toxic chemicals

B	Walmart
B	TARGET
C	CVSHealth
C-	BEST BUY
D+	THE HOME DEPOT
D	LOWE'S
D	Walgreens
D-	Kroger
F	Albertsons
F	COSTCO WHOLESALE
F	amazon

# Why a Retailer Report Card?

- Three years since launch of Mind the Store campaign -- benchmark progress made and need for ongoing market transformation
- Lay out critical elements of retailer safer chemicals policy with clear quantitative criteria
- Create a “race to the top” among the nation’s biggest retailers
- Publicly acknowledge retailers who are moving in the right direction – reward best practices
- Encourage those who are lagging behind to improve
- Incentivize retailers to move more quickly in developing policies
- Incentivize some to be more publicly transparent
- Help consumers and investors understand retailer leaders and laggards managing toxic chemical risks
- Create a framework we can replicate and release – document progress and challenges



*Mind the Store*



# Methodology for Report Card

- 13 categories of criteria – 8 primary adding up to 100 pts, 5 extra credit – 30 pts
- Harmonize criteria with Chemical Footprint Project (CFP), and BizNGO Principles for Safer Chemicals
- 130 possible number points
- Letter grades from F to A+
- Evaluation of retailers based on publicly available information
- Draft scores shared with retailers in advance, provided opportunity to respond
- **Scoring rubric and more here:**  
<http://saferchemicals.org/retailer-report-card/methodology/>

How we calculated grades

Grading Rubric		
Number of Points		Letter Grade
Greater than or Equal to:	But Less than:	
105	130	A+
95	105	A
87	95	A-
79	87	B+
71	79	B
63	71	B-
55	63	C+
47	55	C
39	47	C-
31	39	D+
23	31	D
15	23	D-
0	15	F

# Retailers Evaluated in Report Card



## STORES TOP RETAILERS 2016

[← BACK TO ARTICLE](#)

Retail sales in millions of US dollars

Rank	Company	2015 Retail Sales (000)	expand all
1	Wal-Mart Stores	\$353,108,000	+
2	The Kroger Co.	\$103,878,000	+
3	Costco	\$83,545,000	+
4	The Home Depot	\$79,297,000	+
5	Walgreens Boots Alliance *	\$76,604,000	+
6	Target	\$73,226,000	+
7	CVS Health	\$72,151,000	+
8	Amazon.com	\$61,619,000	+
9	Albertsons	\$58,443,000	+
10	Lowe's Companies	\$57,486,000	+
11	McDonald's	\$35,837,000	+
12	Best Buy	\$35,148,000	+



# Criteria for “Who’s Minding the Store?”



**Oversight:** Assigned corporate management responsibility



**Policy:** Adopted a retailer safer chemicals policy



**Disclosure:** Requires suppliers to report use of chemicals in products to retailer



**Action:** Reduced or eliminated chemicals of high concern within the last three years



**Safer Alternatives:** Evaluates safer alternatives, avoids regrettable substitutes



**Transparency:** Demonstrates a commitment to transparency and public disclosure



**Chemical Footprint:** Evaluates its chemical footprint



**Third-Party Standards:** Promotes credible third party standards for safer products



**Dialogue:** Engaged in safer chemicals dialogue with the Mind the Store campaign



**Joint Announcement:** Public commitment demonstrated through joint announcement



**Continuous Improvement:** Show continuous improvement by steadily expanding safer chemicals policy



**Safer Products:** Program to promote safer products in stores and/or on website



**Collaboration:** Actively participates in collaborative process to promote safer chemicals



# Who's Minding the Store?

A report card on retailer actions to eliminate toxic chemicals

Click each company's logo to see how they scored



Letter grade = B

Total points = 76.5 out of 130

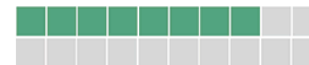
## SUMMARY OF TARGET'S GRADE



**Oversight:** Assigned corporate management responsibility

12 out of 15 points

EXPLANATION OF POINTS



**Policy:** Adopted a retailer safer chemicals policy

8 out of 20 points

EXPLANATION OF POINTS



**Disclosure:** Requires suppliers to report use of chemicals in products to retailer

6 out of 10 points

Target was awarded a B grade, receiving 76.5 points, the second highest score of any retailer evaluated. Target developed a "Sustainable Product Index" (SPI) in 2013, which was updated and expanded in 2015 and again even more recently in 2016. Target has flagged more than 2,000 chemicals of concern for reduction and elimination. The SPI has been applied to personal care, baby care and cleaning products, and in 2016 the company expanded it for the first time to also address cosmetics. In 2016, Target made other significant improvements to its policy: 1) Expanded the list of chemicals subject to its policy, particularly those restricted in cosmetics in the European Union and Canada; 2) Significantly improved its evaluation of suppliers' transparency practices, including a new way for Target to evaluate fragrance ingredients against its restricted substance list; and 3) Added criteria pushing suppliers to disclose its "palette list" of fragrance ingredients, allergens in fragrance and nanomaterials. With these improvements, Target has developed the most robust criteria for evaluating suppliers' disclosure practices.

*Opportunities for improvement:* Target can continue to improve its safer chemicals program by setting public quantifiable goals with clear timelines for reducing and eliminating chemicals of high concern, reporting on its progress in working with suppliers to reduce chemicals of high concern, developing guidance for suppliers on evaluating alternatives, and expanding the policy to other chemically intensive products such as apparel, electronics, and furniture. Target should become a signatory to the Chemical Footprint Project and pilot it with key private label suppliers.



# Detailed Grades: How Each Retailer Scored

Who's Minding the Store? : Detailed Retailer Grades

<b>Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families Mind the Store Campaign</b>		<b>Rank, U.S. Sales (2015):</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2016 RETAILER REPORT CARD</b>		<b>RETAILERS:</b>	<b>Wal-Mart Stores</b>	<b>Kroger</b>	<b>Costco</b>	<b>The Home Depot</b>	<b>Walgreens</b>
<b>GRADING CRITERIA</b>	<b>Action Needed to Earn Maximum Points</b>	<b>Maximum Points Awarded</b>					
<b>1. Assigned corporate management responsibility</b>	A corporate manager has explicit responsibility for product safety related to chemical hazards in products (going beyond basic regulatory compliance) as part of sustainability, environmental, health & safety (EH&S), procurement, and supply chain management; company provides financial and other incentives to employees for successful implementation of their retailer safer chemicals policy; AND has Board or Senior Management engagement in the implementation of safer chemicals policy.	<b>15</b>	(includes Walmart and Sam's Club)				
			Walmart has multiple staff that oversee and implement their Sustainable Chemistry policy, including executive-level engagement with suppliers in implementing their policy. Associates from their sustainability, compliance, and merchandising teams all work together to advance their policy. Merchants and executives drive conversations with their suppliers when they use "High Priority" chemicals, discuss and ask for supplier plans to reduce, restrict and/or remove those chemicals of concern.	A corporate manager has some responsibility for product safety related to chemical hazards in products.	A corporate manager has some responsibility for product safety related to chemical hazards in products.	The Home Depot has multiple staff that work on sustainability including chemicals	A corporate manager has explicit responsibility for product safety related to chemical hazards in products.
			<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>2. Adopted a retailer safer chemicals policy</b>	Retailer has a written safer chemicals policy that aims to avoid all chemicals of high concern (CHCs) in products and packaging they offer for sale to their customers; includes a Beyond Restricted Substance list for chemicals of high concern for at least one major product category; has set public quantifiable goals for reducing and eliminating CHCs in the products and packaging it sells; and has a manufacturing restricted substance list (MRSL) for at least one product category. (See glossary for terms).	<b>20</b>	Walmart has a written safer chemicals policy, their Sustainable Chemistry Policy. Their Implementation Guide is a comprehensive resource providing guidance to suppliers on how they should work with Walmart to implement the policy. Walmart has developed a list of 16 "High Priority" chemicals and more than 1,000 "Priority" chemicals of concern that they are challenging suppliers to reduce and eliminate. The company states that: "All suppliers are expected to reduce, restrict and eliminate use of priority chemicals using informed substitution principles." The policy applies to cleaning products, cosmetics and personal care products, infant products, and pet supplies. In October 2016 Walmart unveiled their "Sustainable Packaging Playbook" which encourages suppliers to identify, remove, reduce and restrict their "Priority" chemicals and materials in packaging "that may present human health and environmental toxicity risks" which includes carcinogens, mutagens, reproductive toxicants, and PBTs. They also recommend suppliers avoid PVC plastic in packaging. However the company has not set public quantifiable goals for reduction and elimination	Retailer has no written safer chemicals policy.	Retailer has no written safer chemicals policy.	Retailer has no written safer chemicals policy.	The company has committed to developing a "Chemical Sustainability Program" to address chemicals in products. However they have stated they will be announcing it in "the coming months" for nearly two years.

Available Online: <http://bit.ly/2k4axwN>

store

# How retailers rank on tackling toxic chemicals

EXTRA CREDIT

	15 Oversight	20 Policy	10 Disclosure	10 Action	10 Safer Alternatives	15 Transparency	10 Chemical Footprint	10 Third Party Standards	5 Dialogue	5 Joint Announcement	10 Continuous Improvement	5 Safe Products	5 Collaboration	Final Score	
Walmart	12	12	5	10	5	12	5	7.5	5	0	0	0	5	78.5	
Target	12	8	6	8	2.5	10	0	5	5	0	10	5	5	76.5	
CVS Health	12	8	5	8	2.5	3.5	2.5	0	5	1.5	0	0	5	53	
Bea's Day	8	3	0	8	0	3.5	0	2.5	5	1	0	5	5	41	
The Home Depot	8	0	0	6	0	0	0	2.5	4	5	0	5	5	35.5	
Low's	8	0	0	5	0	1.5	0	2.5	5	2.5	0	0	5	29.5	
Walgreens	8	2	0	8	0	1.5	0	0	5	0	0	0	5	29.5	
Kroger	4	0	0	8	0	1.5	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	15.5	
Albertsons	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	2.5	2	0	0	0	0	12.5	
Costco	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.5	3	0	0	0	0	9.5	
Amazon	4	0	0	2	0	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7.5	



# How retailers rank on tackling toxic chemicals

EXTRA CREDIT

	10  Oversight	20  Policy	10  Disclosure	10  Action	10  Safer Alternatives	15  Transparency	10  Chemical Footprint	10  Third Party Standards	5  Dialogue	5  Joint Announcement	10  Continuous Improvement	5  Safer Products	5  Collaboration	Final Score	
 Wal-Mart	12	12	5	10	5	12	5	7.5	5	0	0	0	5	78.5	
 Target	12	8	6	8	2.5	10	0	5	5	0	10	5	5	76.5	
 CVS Health	12	8	5	8	2.5	3.5	2.5	0	5	1.5	0	0	5	53	
 Bea's	8	3	0	8	0	3.5	0	2.5	5	1	0	5	5	41	
 The Home Depot	8	0	0	6	0	0	0	2.5	4	5	0	5	5	35.5	
 Low's	8	0	0	5	0	1.5	0	2.5	5	2.5	0	0	5	29.5	
 Walmart	8	2	0	8	0	1.5	0	0	5	0	0	0	5	29.5	
 Kroger	4	0	0	8	0	1.5	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	15.5	
 Albertsons	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	2.5	2	0	0	0	0	12.5	
 Costco	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.5	3	0	0	0	0	9.5	
 Amazon	4	0	0	2	0	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7.5	



**Oversight:** Assigned corporate management responsibility  
12 out of 15 points

 EXPLANATION OF POINTS

CVS has multiple staff that work on sustainability including chemicals. In their most recent sustainability report, the company states that: “Our goals are tied to our CSR strategic priorities, which are organized under three pillars. Each pillar has an executive sponsor who oversees progress against these priorities, while specific goals are owned and driven by senior management throughout our organization. Ultimately, our CEO and the Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee of our Board of Directors have oversight of our CSR and sustainability performance.”

# How retailers rank on tackling toxic chemicals

EXTRA CREDIT

	15 Oversight	10 Policy	10 Disclosure	10 Action	10 Safer Alternatives	15 Transparency	10 Chemical Footprint	10 Third Party Standards	5 Dialogue	5 Joint Announcement	10 Continuous Improvement	5 Safer Products	5 Collaboration	Final Score	
Walmart	12	12	5	10	5	12	5	7.5	5	0	0	0	5	78.5	
Target	12	8	6	8	2.5	10	0	5	5	0	10	5	5	76.5	
CVS Health	12	8	5	8	2.5	3.5	2.5	0	5	1.5	0	0	5	53	
Best Buy	8	3	0	8	0	3.5	0	2.5	5	1	0	5	5	41	
The Home Depot	8	0	0	6	0	0	0	2.5	4	5	0	5	5	35.5	
Lowe's	8	0	0	5	0	1.5	0	2.5	5	2.5	0	0	5	29.5	
Walgreens	8	2	0	8	0	1.5	0	0	5	0	0	0	5	29.5	
Kroger	4	0	0	8	0	1.5	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	15.5	
Albertsons	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	2.5	2	0	0	0	0	12.5	
Costco	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.5	3	0	0	0	0	9.5	
Amazon	4	0	0	2	0	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7.5	





**Policy:** Adopted a retailer safer chemicals policy

12 out of 20 points

 EXPLANATION OF POINTS

Walmart has a written safer chemicals policy, their Sustainable Chemistry Policy. Their Implementation Guide is a comprehensive resource providing guidance to suppliers on how they should work with Walmart to implement the policy. Walmart has developed a list of 16 “High Priority” chemicals and more than 1,000 “Priority” chemicals of concern that they are challenging suppliers to reduce and eliminate. The company states that: “All suppliers are expected to reduce, restrict and eliminate use of priority chemicals using informed substitution principles.” The policy applies to cleaning products, cosmetics and personal care products, infant products, and pet supplies. In October 2016 Walmart unveiled their “Sustainable Packaging Playbook” which encourages suppliers to identify, remove, reduce and restrict their “Priority” chemicals and materials in packaging “that may present human health and environmental toxicity risks” which includes carcinogens, mutagens, reproductive toxicants, and PBTs. They also recommend suppliers avoid PVC plastic in packaging. However the company has not set public quantifiable goals for reduction and elimination of CHCs, they have not developed a MRS�, and the policy only applies to products sold in U.S. stores.

# How retailers rank on tackling toxic chemicals

EXTRA CREDIT

	15 Oversight	20 Policy	10 Disclosure	10 Action	10 Safer Alternatives	15 Transparency	10 Chemical Footprint	10 Third Party Standards	5 Dialogue	5 Joint Announcement	10 Continuous Improvement	5 Safer Products	5 Collaboration	Final Score	
Walmart	12	12	5	10	5	12	5	7.5	5	0	0	0	5	78.5	B
Target	12	8	6	8	2.5	10	0	5	5	0	10	5	5	76.5	B
CVS Health	12	8	5	8	2.5	3.5	2.5	0	5	1.5	0	0	5	53	C
Best Buy	8	3	0	8	0	3.5	0	2.5	5	1	0	5	5	41	C-
The Home Depot	8	0	0	6	0	0	0	2.5	4	5	0	5	5	35.5	D+
Lowe's	8	0	0	5	0	1.5	0	2.5	5	2.5	0	0	5	29.5	D
Walgreens	8	2	0	8	0	1.5	0	0	5	0	0	0	5	29.5	D
Kroger	4	0	0	8	0	1.5	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	15.5	D-
Albertsons	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	2.5	2	0	0	0	0	12.5	F
Costco	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.5	3	0	0	0	0	9.5	F
Amazon	4	0	0	2	0	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7.5	F



**Disclosure:** Requires suppliers to report use of chemicals in products to retailer

6 out of 10 points

[EXPLANATION OF POINTS](#)

Target uses the UL WERC Smart and PurView platforms for collecting and evaluating information about chemical ingredients in consumables and other formulated products. Suppliers are graded on transparency and disclosure practices in their SPI and encouraged but not required to disclose full ingredient formulations. Target states that: "A product will receive a maximum of 35 points if its label discloses every ingredient in it, including the specific constituents of fragrances or other proprietary components. 10-30 points are available for other disclosure best practices, based on the extent to which they support complete and open assessments of a product." In 2016 the company significantly expanded their ingredient transparency criteria, and stated that: "To create an incentive for manufacturers to adopt labeling practices that meet consumer demand for complete ingredient disclosure, Target allocates a significant percentage of the points available in its Sustainable Product Index (SPI) to evaluations of ingredient disclosure practices. In Version 3.0 of the SPI, 35% of the total points available to a product are awarded based on its disclosure practices. Working with our partner UL, we have identified the range of disclosure practices currently observed in the marketplace and adopted a scoring system that rewards those practices that allows each chemical's impacts to be assessed." They do this by rewarding suppliers who publicly disclose their "palette list" of chemicals in generic ingredients like fragrance as well as those that publicly disclose allergens of concern identified by the EU. They also encourage disclosure of fragrance ingredients and full formulations through a third party to as UL, DFE (Safer Choice), or a Cradle 2 Cradle certifier so that these ingredients can be screened against Target's red list of chemicals of concern. Target has created this new screening mechanism so that ingredients can be evaluated for safety against Target's "High Priority" and chemicals of "Concern" while at the same time protecting confidential business information (CBI) of suppliers.



# How retailers rank on tackling toxic chemicals

EXTRA CREDIT

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Walmart	12	12	5	10	5	12	5	7.5	5	0	0	0	5	78.5 <span style="background-color: #c8e6c9;">B</span>
Target	12	8	6	8	2.5	10	0	5	5	0	10	5	5	76.5 <span style="background-color: #c8e6c9;">B</span>
CVS Health	12	8	5	8	2.5	3.5	2.5	0	5	1.5	0	0	5	53 <span style="background-color: #fff9c4;">C</span>
Best Buy	8	3	0	8	0	3.5	0	2.5	5	1	0	5	5	41 <span style="background-color: #fff9c4;">C-</span>
The Home Depot	8	0	0	6	0	0	0	2.5	4	5	0	5	5	35.5 <span style="background-color: #ffcdd2;">D+</span>
Lowe's	8	0	0	5	0	1.5	0	2.5	5	2.5	0	0	5	29.5 <span style="background-color: #ffcdd2;">D</span>
Walgreens	8	2	0	8	0	1.5	0	0	5	0	0	0	5	29.5 <span style="background-color: #ffcdd2;">D</span>
Kroger	4	0	0	8	0	1.5	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	15.5 <span style="background-color: #ffcdd2;">D-</span>
Albertsons	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	2.5	2	0	0	0	0	12.5 <span style="background-color: #f8bbd0;">F</span>
Costco	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.5	3	0	0	0	0	9.5 <span style="background-color: #f8bbd0;">F</span>
Amazon	4	0	0	2	0	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7.5 <span style="background-color: #f8bbd0;">F</span>





**Letter grade = D+**

Total points = 35.5 out of 130



**Action:** Reduced or eliminated chemicals of high concern within the last three years

6 out of 10 points

[EXPLANATION OF POINTS](#)

Home Depot was the first major home improvement retailer globally to phase out all ortho-phthalates in vinyl flooring in one years time, setting a major precedent for other home improvement chains and flooring retailers who followed suit. This is very significant as flooring is one of the biggest uses of phthalates globally.

# How retailers rank on tackling toxic chemicals

EXTRA CREDIT

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CVS Health	12	8	5	8	2.5	3.5	2.5	0	5	1.5	0	0	5	53 <b>C</b>
Best Buy	8	3	0	8	0	3.5	0	2.5	5	1	0	5	5	41 <b>C-</b>
The Home Depot	8	0	0	6	0	0	0	2.5	4	5	0	5	5	35.5 <b>D+</b>
Low's	8	0	0	5	0	1.5	0	2.5	5	2.5	0	0	5	29.5 <b>D</b>
Walgreens	8	2	0	8	0	1.5	0	0	5	0	0	0	5	29.5 <b>D</b>
Kroger	4	0	0	8	0	1.5	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	15.5 <b>D-</b>
Albertsons	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	2.5	2	0	0	0	0	12.5 <b>F</b>
Costco	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.5	3	0	0	0	0	9.5 <b>F</b>
Amazon	4	0	0	2	0	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7.5 <b>F</b>



**Safer Alternatives:** Evaluates safer alternatives, avoids regrettable substitutes

5 out of 10 points

 EXPLANATION OF POINTS

Walmart is encouraging their suppliers to avoid “regrettable substitution” by evaluating the hazards of replacement chemicals and embracing best in class “informed substitution” and “alternatives assessment” principles. Walmart states: “Informed substitution is the considered transition from a chemical of particular concern to safer chemicals or non-chemical alternatives. Using informed substitution principles will mitigate hazard risks associated with product formulation and achieve compliance with Walmart’s Policy on Sustainable Chemistry in Consumables...In the aim of advancing safer formulated products and promoting informed substitution, Walmart recommends the major tenets of Alternatives Assessment, a process for identifying, comparing and selecting safer alternatives to priority chemicals (including those in materials, processes or technologies) on the basis of their hazards, performance, and economic viability...” In their Implementation Guide, they cite many great resources, such as the GreenScreen, CleanGredients, Pharos Chemical and Material Library, BizNGO’s Chemical Alternatives Assessment Protocol, US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredient List (SCIL), and the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production’s Alternatives Assessment Protocol. It is unclear how they are tracking or evaluating suppliers use of these tools and practices.

# How retailers rank on tackling toxic chemicals

EXTRA CREDIT

	15 Oversight	20 Policy	10 Disclosure	10 Action	10 Safer Alternatives	15 Transparency	10 Chemical Footprint	10 Third Party Standards	5 Dialogue	5 Joint Announcement	10 Continuous Improvement	5 Safer Products	5 Collaboration	Final Score	
Walmart	12	12	5	10	5	12	5	7.5	5	0	0	0	5	78.5	
Target	12	8	6	8	2.5	10	0	5	5	0	10	5	5	76.5	
CVS Health	12	8	5	8	2.5	3.5	2.5	0	5	1.5	0	0	5	53	
Bea Bay	8	3	0	8	0	3.5	0	2.5	5	1	0	5	5	41	
The Home Depot	8	0	0	6	0	0	0	2.5	4	5	0	5	5	35.5	
Low's	8	0	0	5	0	1.5	0	2.5	5	2.5	0	0	5	29.5	
Walgreens	8	2	0	8	0	1.5	0	0	5	0	0	0	5	29.5	
Kroger	4	0	0	8	0	1.5	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	15.5	
Albertsons	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	2.5	2	0	0	0	0	12.5	
Costco	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.5	3	0	0	0	0	9.5	
Amazon	4	0	0	2	0	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7.5	





**Transparency:** Demonstrates a commitment to transparency and public disclosure

10 out of 15 points

 EXPLANATION OF POINTS

Target's Sustainable Product Index is public and the company has publicly disclosed their authoritative list of lists of "High Priority" and chemicals of "Concern" to identify chemicals with high level health concerns. Target encourages suppliers to list ingredients on packaging and their websites including fragrance, allergens, and other generic ingredients through its SPI. The company significantly expanded their criteria around public disclosure in 2016 to encourage suppliers to disclose ingredients to both Target and the public. The company has not publicly reported on metrics in implementing their policy.

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Lowe's	8	0	0	5	0	1.5	0	2.5	5	2.5	0	0	5	29.5	
Walgreens	8	2	0	8	0	1.5	0	0	5	0	0	0	5	29.5	
Kroger	4	0	0	8	0	1.5	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	15.5	
Albertsons	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	2.5	2	0	0	0	0	12.5	
Costco	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.5	3	0	0	0	0	9.5	
Amazon	4	0	0	2	0	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7.5	



**Chemical Footprint:** Evaluates its chemical footprint  
2.5 out of 10 points

[EXPLANATION OF POINTS](#)

CVS Health became a signatory to the Chemical Footprint project in November 2016, becoming the first national pharmacy chain to do so.

























**Chemical Footprint:** Evaluates its chemical footprint  
5 out of 10 points

[EXPLANATION OF POINTS](#)

Walmart did not participate in the first annual survey of the Chemical Footprint Project. However, to their credit, in their most recent sustainability report, Walmart talks about evaluating their chemical footprint and states they: “have an initial framework for evaluating our chemical footprint using UL’s WERCSmart™ platform for inscope formulated consumable products.”

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 Costco	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.5	3	0	0	0	0	9.5	
 Amazon	4	0	0	2	0	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7.5	





**Third-Party Standards:** Promotes credible third party standards for safer products

7.5 out of 10 points

EXPLANATION OF POINTS

Walmart has set a goal to certify all of its private label cleaning products to EPA's Safer Choice program, however the company has not reported on metrics in implementing this goal to date. The company has committed to expand this certification to other categories as the Safer Choice program grows.



**Third-Party Standards:** Promotes credible third party standards for safer products

5 out of 10 points

EXPLANATION OF POINTS

Target's Sustainable Product Index encourages and rewards suppliers that meet either Safer Choice or Cradle 2 Cradle standards. In 2016, the company unfortunately reduced the number of points it rewards for third party standards in their SPI, from 10 possible points to 5. Target has recently reformulated most of their Up & Up liquid hand soap products to meet the EPA Safer Choice criteria, and Target's Cat & Jack organic pajamas meet the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) standard, which prohibits numerous chemicals of high concern.

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Amazon	4	0	0	2	0	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7.5	



**Continuous Improvement:** Show continuous improvement by steadily expanding safer chemicals policy

10 out of 10 points

 EXPLANATION OF POINTS

Target has made significant improvements to their policy in both 2015 and 2016. In 2016 they expanded their policy to include cosmetics and significantly expanded the policy to push for greater disclosure of fragrance ingredients and allergens (see above). Target has expanded their policy's list of chemicals of concern over the past two years. In 2015, Target added triclosan as well as Health Canada's "Cosmetic Ingredient Hotlist – prohibited for use in cosmetics" to its list of "High Priority" ingredients. In 2016, Target added the European Union's "Prohibited in Cosmetic Products. European Commission, Cosmetics Regulation Annex II", a list of approximately 1,300 banned ingredients, to their "High Priority" list. They also added the European Union's list of fragrance allergens to its list of "Concern" ingredients. Target also added new criteria for cosmetics, incentivizing suppliers to eliminate chemicals in cosmetics that have been restricted in Canada and European Union. However they removed the European Commission's "priority list" of endocrine disruptors in 2016 and also removed reference to endocrine disruptors and other health hazards in their policy. The company to their credit is "aiming to add other product categories in the near future."

# Five Key Findings.

- 1:** Three retailer leaders are making meaningful progress toward adopting policies for safer chemicals and products, setting the pace for the entire sector. [More »](#)
- 2:** Too many retailers remain serious laggards that lack even basic public policies, while a few others are just beginning to make progress. [More »](#)
- 3:** Retailers are driving toxic chemicals from the market, but more effort is needed to ensure that alternatives avoid “regrettable substitutes.” [More »](#)
- 4:** Disclosure of chemical ingredients by retailers and suppliers is improving, but greater transparency is needed to satisfy consumers. [More »](#)
- 5:** Third-party standards are playing a positive role in product safety, but not enough retailers are assessing their chemical footprint. [More »](#)

**Discussion of findings:**

<http://saferchemicals.org/retailer-report-card/rankings/>



# Recommendations from Report Card

- 1: Policy:** Every major U.S. retailer should have a written safer chemical policy, with senior management staff, executive and board level engagement, that measures and publicly reports on continuous improvement toward reducing, eliminating and safely substituting toxic chemicals in products;
- 2: Transparency:** Every major U.S. retailer should embrace “radical transparency” to meet rising consumer demand for full public disclosure of product chemical ingredients, developing and disclosing written safer chemicals policies, and annually reporting on goals and metrics in implementing policies aimed at eliminating harmful chemicals and requiring informed substitution; and
- 3: Safer chemicals standards:** Every major U.S. retailer should nurture, promote, require, and vigorously defend from attack reputable third-party safer chemicals standards aimed at promoting safer products such as Safer Choice, Made Safe, Green Seal, the LEED Material Ingredient credit, the Chemical Footprint Project, Cradle 2 Cradle, and others.



# Wal-Mart Is First, Amazon Is Worst in New Ranking on Chemicals

by **Lauren Coleman-Lochner**  
 November 15, 2016 — 12:00 PM EST Updated on November 15, 2016 — 4:22 PM EST

# Shoppers guide to avoiding toxic chemicals

By **Sandee LaMotte, CNN**  
 Updated 12:38 PM ET, Thu November 17, 2016



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# Where to shop to avoid chemicals: From Amazon to Target, this guide rates which stores sell products riddled with toxins and which don't

- Studies show chemicals can be found in all manner of everyday products
- The FDA is investigating some of them, and many retailers are working to eliminate hormone-disrupting toxins from their products
- A new report assesses 11 of America's top stores - with a damning results



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# Wal-Mart's chemical-cutting praised

By **Robbie Neiswanger** [twitter](#)  
 This article was published November 17, 2016 at 5:45 a.m.

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Wal-Mart Stores Inc. is leading the way among major U.S. retailers in efforts to drive harmful chemicals out of the products on its shelves, according to a study by Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families.



# Who's Minding the Store?

This holiday season, consumers want to know the presents they bring home to their families are safe and free of toxic chemicals linked to cancer or reproductive harm.

While some retailers are making progress, not one company received highest honors in the first-ever report card issued to the largest retailers on product safety and toxic chemicals.

With an average grade of D+, most retailers are barely making the grade. Some like Amazon, Costco, and Albertsons are failing, with no public safer chemicals policies in place.

Big retailers can no longer ignore the financial, regulatory and reputational risks associated with dangerous chemicals in products sold in their stores.

[RetailerReportCard.org](http://RetailerReportCard.org)



Safer Chemicals  
Healthy Families

## Mind Store

How leading retailers rank in tackling toxic chemicals

- B Walmart
- B TARGET
- C CVSHealth
- C BEST BUY
- D+ Home Depot
- D Lowe's
- D Walgreens
- D Kroger
- F Albertsons
- F COSTCO WHOLESALE
- F amazon

## The Right Chemistry

### Is your favorite retailer selling toxic products?

share this article



Mike Schade and Mike Belliveau

Thursday, December 15, 2016 - 1:22am



Mike Schade  
Director, Mind the Store campaign  
Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families



Mike Belliveau  
Environmental Health Strategy Center



Don't be fooled. Even in this day and age, plenty of products on the market are harmful to your health.

Just in time for the holiday shopping season, a new report card has been released evaluating the United States' largest retailers' safer chemicals programs — providing detailed information for both consumers and investors on which retailers are leading and which are failing when it comes to managing toxic chemical risks.

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## COMMUNITY VOICES

Community Voices features opinion pieces from a wide variety of authors and perspectives. (Submission Guidelines)

### Minnesota retailers cited for taking action on chemicals in products; others should follow

By Kathleen Schuler | 01/06/17

Email Share Tweet Print



# ChemicalWatch

GLOBAL RISK & REGULATION NEWS

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Consortia

## Amazon ranked bottom in retailer chemical 'report card'

Walmart and Target top list for efforts to phase out toxic chemicals

16 November 2016 / Retail, United States

Amazon has come bottom of a "report card" ranking US retailers' actions to eliminate toxic chemicals. Walmart and Target received the highest marks.

Safer Chemicals Healthy Families (SCHF), a coalition of environmental and health advocacy organisations, scored retailers on their progress since the launch of its Mind the Store campaign three years ago.





A national effort to protect families from toxic chemicals.



**Join the Movement**

Thousands of people are pushing Congress and retailers for strong action on toxic chemicals.

EMAIL ADDRESS

ZIP CODE

**Sign Up**

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<http://bit.ly/ReportCardAction>

- Home
- Get the Facts
- Act Now
- Blog
- Newsroom
- Mind the Store
- Who We Are
- Donate

**Tell Big Retailers: It's Time to Eliminate Toxic Chemicals**

A growing body of science has linked exposure to hazardous chemicals, commonly found in some products, to chronic diseases like cancer and asthma.

Some retailers like Walmart, Target and CVS, are making meaningful progress in tackling toxic chemicals in products. But in the first-ever report card grading the largest retailers on toxic chemicals, not one company earned an A.

With an average grade of D+, most retailers are barely making the grade. Some like Amazon, Costco, and Albertsons are failing, with no written safer chemicals policies in place.

**TAKE ACTION:** Tell the nation's top retailers to eliminate toxic chemicals!

How retailers rank on tackling toxic chemicals



- HOME
- WHO WE ARE
- SCIENCE
- KEY ISSUES
- HEALTHY LIVING
- BLOG

**Ask Costco and Amazon to publicly commit to eliminating toxic chemicals in the products they sell.**



**Sign the Petition To Costco and Amazon**

Ask them to publicly commit to a plan to eliminate toxic chemicals in their products!

Costco and Amazon received the lowest grades nationwide ("Fs") on their efforts to reduce the use of harmful chemicals in products sold in their stores.

**ADD YOUR NAME** ▶



Subject: Please eliminate toxic chemicals from your products  
 Your Letter:

Dear Mr. Bezos,

A recent report titled "Who's Minding the Store?" found that Amazon is among the retailers ranked lowest nationwide in phasing out toxic chemicals. Many chemicals in everyday products have been linked to serious health problems. As one of the largest retailers in the country, Amazon should be a leader in this area.

I hope you will develop a comprehensive safer chemicals program that includes a restricted substances list as well as public, quantifiable

**Amazon: Act on toxic chemicals**

In a recent retailer report card report, Amazon received an F grade on phasing out toxic chemicals. The company hasn't even publicly announced a safer chemicals policy.

As more and more chemicals in everyday products are being linked to health problems, including cancer and neurological impairments, Amazon, which is one of the largest retailers in the U.S., must take steps to make sure toxic chemicals aren't in their products. Send an email to Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos now.

*Mind the Store*

# Report Card Plans for 2017

- Version 2.0 of retailer card, evaluate how retailers' policies have changed from 2016-2017.
- Revisit and refine criteria – comments/input welcome into criteria, questions, response options. Continued alignment with Chemical Footprint Project (CFP).
- How can we bring this work to scale? Expand report card to evaluate a larger number of retailers in 2017.





# Thank you. Questions?

**Read the report at**

**[www.RetailerReportCard.org](http://www.RetailerReportCard.org)**

**[www.MindTheStore.org](http://www.MindTheStore.org)**

Mike Schade, Mind the Store Campaign Director

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***Mind the Store***