



## What are Phthalates?

Phthalates are a class of chemicals commonly found in a range of consumer products, including household products, personal care products and cosmetics. Phthalates have been linked to cancer, endocrine disruption, and reproductive/developmental toxicity.

## Where are Phthalates Found?

Phthalates are used as plasticizers to make plastic products more flexible or durable. Plastic products such as **polyvinyl chloride (PVC)**, **shower curtains**, **plastic food wrap**, and **flooring**, can contain phthalates along with **paints**, **cosmetics**, **fragranced lotions**, **body washes**, **hair care products**, **nail polish** and more. Federal law allows for fragrance to be listed as an ingredient of personal care products without disclosure of the exact substances contained such as phthalates.

**For a safer option, look for products that do not include this chemical. Read labels and avoid products that contain these toxic ingredients:** *phthalate, DEP, DBP, DEHP, fragrance*

## Why are Phthalates Concerning?

Some phthalates are considered **possibly carcinogenic to humans** by the [International Agency For Research on Cancer \(IARC\)](#) and **reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen** by the [National Toxicology Program \(NTP\)](#).

Many phthalates remain understudied regarding their toxic effects in humans.

## Where can I find more information about Phthalates?

To learn more about this hazardous chemical, please visit the following organization's websites:

### Scientific Government Resources:

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\): Phthalates Factsheet](#)

### Consumer Support Information:

- [Environmental Working Group: Cheatsheet: Phthalates](#)
- [Campaign for Safe Cosmetics: Phthalates](#)

NOTE: All links for additional information are trusted sources. If you would not to know more, or have questions, please contact us at [info@CENSWPA.org](mailto:info@CENSWPA.org).