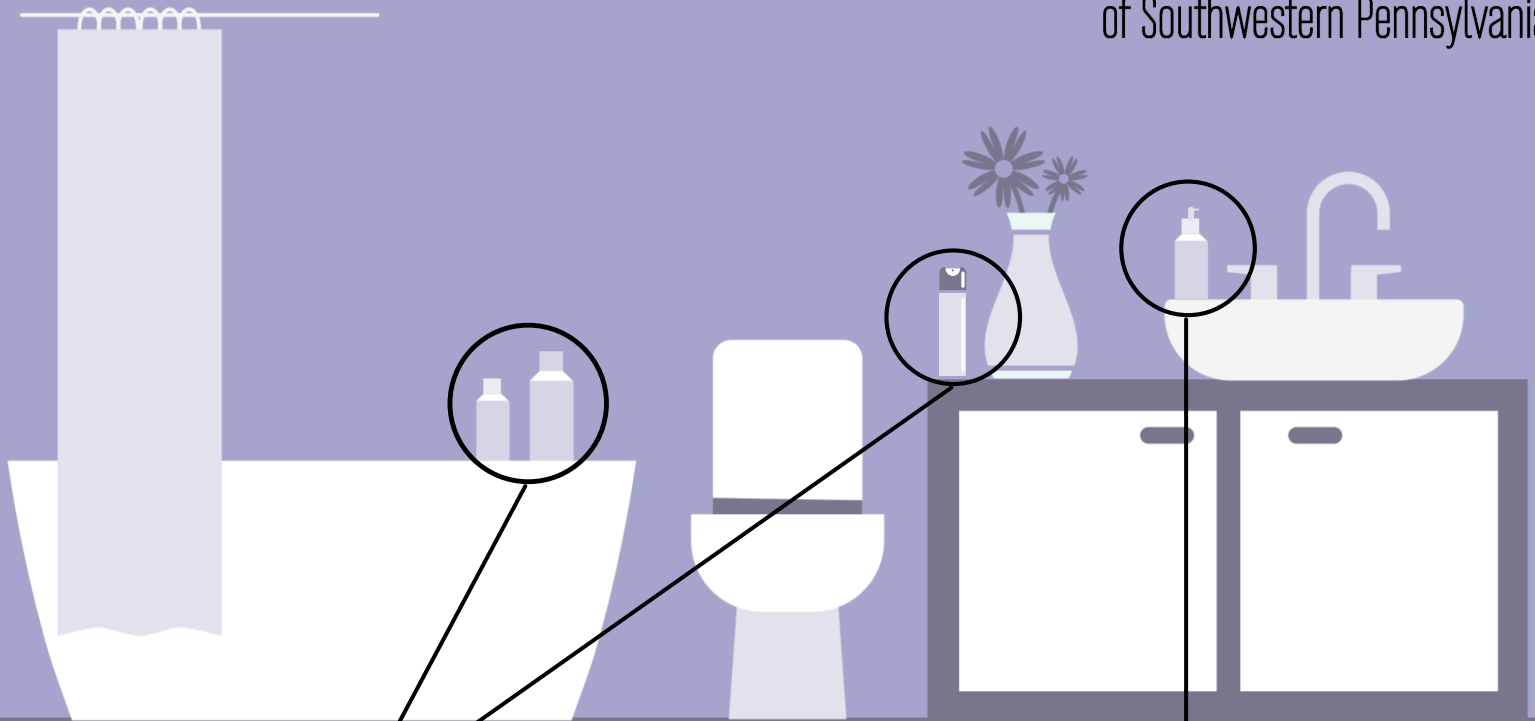


# Bathroom



Cancer & Environment Network  
of Southwestern Pennsylvania



Fragrance is a generic term used on labels of products such as scented soaps, lotions, cleaners and air fresheners. Federal law does not require that specific chemicals used in fragrances be disclosed on product labels.

The International Fragrance Association (IFRA) lists **over 3,000 chemicals** used in fragrances, which include many known and suspected human carcinogens, among them:

- Formaldehyde
- Acetaldehyde
- Benzophenone
- 1-4 Dioxane

Some toxic chemicals are added to products to provide anti-microbial/anti-bacterial properties. In the case of hand soaps, there is no evidence demonstrating that these products are more effective than simply using soap and water.

Some cleaning/disinfectant products can contain quaternary ammonium compounds or “quats” which cause short- and long- term and skin and respiratory problems and may confer additional health risks. There is rarely a need for disinfectants at home. In community spaces, disinfectants should be used minimally and there are safer products than those containing quats.

For more information, visit the following:

- [Cancer and Environment Network of Southwestern Pennsylvania, Chemical Fact Sheet: Fragrance](#)
- [Campaign for Safe Cosmetics, Get the Facts: Fragrance](#)
- [Food and Drug Administration: Antibacterial Soap](#)
- [Toxic Use Reduction Institute: Quaternary Ammonium Compounds](#)