

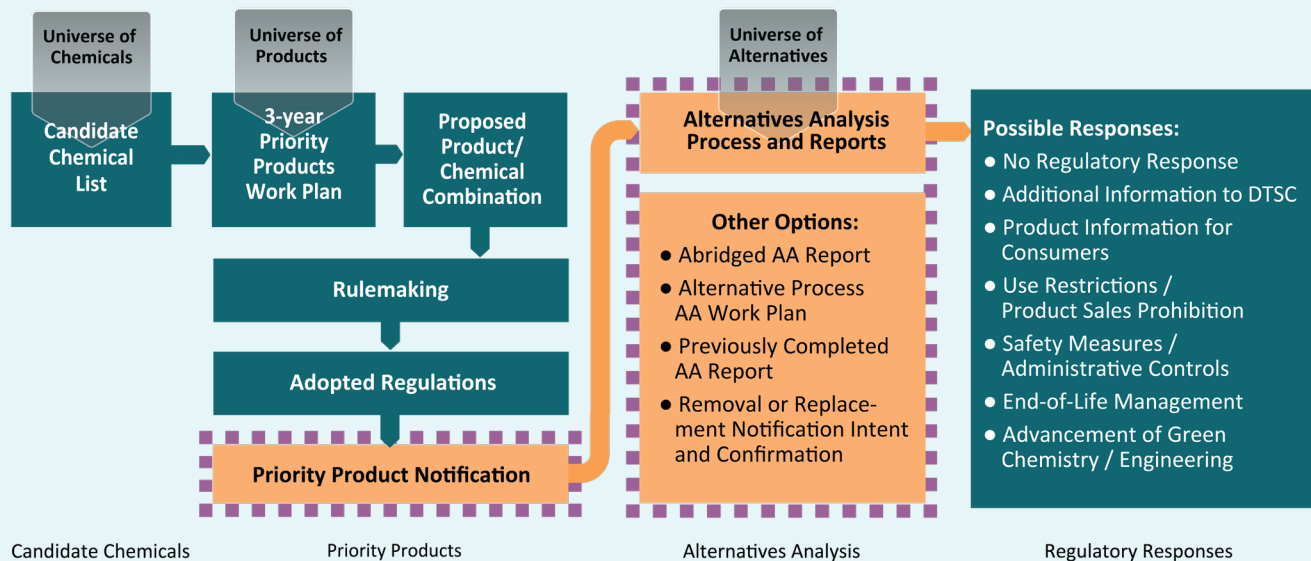
Safer Consumer Products Program

In 2008, California took a groundbreaking step towards reducing the use of hazardous chemicals and accelerating the quest for safer products by enacting the Green Chemistry Law that led to the development of Safer Consumer Products (SCP). The SCP approach is highly collaborative, systematic, and science-driven and seeks to identify safer alternatives to Chemicals of Concern in consumer products and to identify ways in which the impact of a Chemical of Concern can be minimized when no safer alternative is available.



Scan to view
the SCP
Accomplish-
ments page

SCP Framework



DTSC Responsible Entity The SCP Regulatory steps shaded in purple are subject to compliance and enforcement actions.

The SCP framework is not designed to ban harmful chemicals in consumer products but is to find safer alternatives through a scientifically driven, collaborative, and thorough analysis process. While bans may be appropriate in some circumstances and can be the desired policy option at the end of the SCP process, uninformed bans may also result in regrettable substitutions – a situation where a Chemical of Concern is replaced by a chemical that is equally or more harmful than the original chemical.

SCP Accomplishments

Over the last ten years, SCP has researched more than 80 chemicals/chemical classes in ten large product categories and regulated eight products containing Chemicals of Concern. Currently, SCP is working towards regulating four more product-chemical combinations in the coming months, conducting analytical testing of regulated materials to verify compliance, and developing regulatory responses to chemicals in products with no safer alternative.

SCP's work catalyzed the removal of **millions of pounds** of hazardous chemicals from the California market.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs)

- Regulated PFASs as a class of compounds as opposed to each individual substance.
- The listing of carpets and rugs with PFASs as a priority product prompted all U.S. carpet manufacturers to switch to safer alternatives.
- The listing of PFAS-containing aftermarket treatments for textiles and leathers as a priority product led to all manufacturers of these products to stop selling PFAS-containing treatments and prompted a subset of manufacturers to reformulate products with safer alternatives.
- Prevented upwards to 0.25 million pounds of PFASs entering California homes and workplaces annually.

Methylene Chloride

- The listing of paint or varnish strippers containing methylene chloride as a priority product led to 1.3 million pounds of methylene chloride from being used in California annually.
- Protects construction workers and other users (e.g., DIYers) of paint or varnish strippers from exposure to methylene chloride.

Future Work of SCP

DTSC reform has allowed SCP to double in size and to build a team with expertise in a broad range of scientific and technical disciplines. With this augmentation, SCP is staffed to fully implement the regulatory framework. Currently, the program is working to train the new staff and is gearing up to announce nine new product-chemical combinations in the next 18 months, prioritizing the ones that have potential harm to vulnerable and environmental justice communities.



View "A Decade of Safer Consumer Products" video



SCP timeline, with activities and milestones for most Safer Consumer Products (SCP) Program projects



www.dtsc.ca.gov

A Decade of Safer Consumer Products

The Department of Toxic Substances Control established the Safer Consumer Products Program in 2013 to advance the design, development, and use of products that are chemically safer for people and the environment.

Some of SCP's accomplishments in our first decade:



2014

We created the CalSAFER online database, where our stakeholders and the public can easily search through the 3,000+ Candidate Chemicals SCP has the potential to regulate.



2017

We published the Alternatives Analysis Guide to help responsible entities understand and meet the SCP regulatory requirements to investigate safer alternatives.



2017

We regulated the use of two potentially carcinogenic flame retardants in children's sleeping products.



2018

We regulated spray polyurethane foam systems containing the chemical MDI, which poses an asthma risk to workers and DIYers.



2019

We regulated paint or varnish strippers containing methylene chloride – an extremely toxic chemical responsible for multiple deaths.



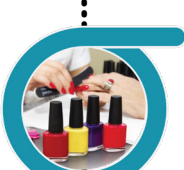
2021-22

We regulated the entire class of PFASs – “forever chemicals” – in carpets and rugs and in aftermarket treatments for textiles or leathers due to their high environmental persistence.



2023

We were the first to regulate motor vehicle tires containing 6PPD, an environmental contaminant linked to the deaths of endangered coho salmon.



2023

Our regulation of toluene in nail products helped address harmful exposures to young women from vulnerable communities.

SCP Compels Manufacturers to Make Safer Products

- Our regulations have helped remove millions of pounds of hazardous chemicals from the California market, including up to 1.3 million pounds of methylene chloride and up to a quarter million pounds of PFASs each year.
- Our rigorous and thorough Alternatives Analysis review process prevents companies from replacing Chemicals of Concern with substitutes that are as bad or worse.
- Where no safer alternatives are identified, we require manufacturers to invest in developing green chemistry or green engineering solutions.

Our Shadow is Bigger Than Our Shape

- Our scientists and engineers engage in the global dialogue on issues that inform our work and have published more than a dozen peer-reviewed articles and book chapters.
- We have continually collaborated and shared expertise with NGOs, academic institutions, industry, and other governmental entities to advance safer consumer products and green chemistry solutions.
- Our efforts have informed the implementation of other states' laws, such as Safer Products for Washington.

What's Next?

- We are preparing our fourth Priority Product Work Plan, this time with expanded authority to request information from manufacturers, thanks to Senate Bill 502.
- We plan to add microplastics and a class of chemicals related to 6PPD to our Candidate Chemicals List.
- To prevent burden shifts that disproportionately affect vulnerable populations and communities, we are working to embed environmental justice (EJ) principles into our Alternatives Analysis Guide.

As our second decade begins, our program is doubling in size, and we're excited to continue to advance the design, development, and use of products that are chemically safer for California's people and environment.



SAFER
CONSUMER
PRODUCTS
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL

