



Household Appliances

Why am I being warned about potential exposure to chemicals from household appliances?



- Some household appliances may contain chemicals that are on the [Proposition 65](#) list because they can cause cancer and/or birth defects or other reproductive harm.
- Proposition 65 requires businesses to determine if they must provide a warning about significant exposure to [listed chemicals](#).



HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES

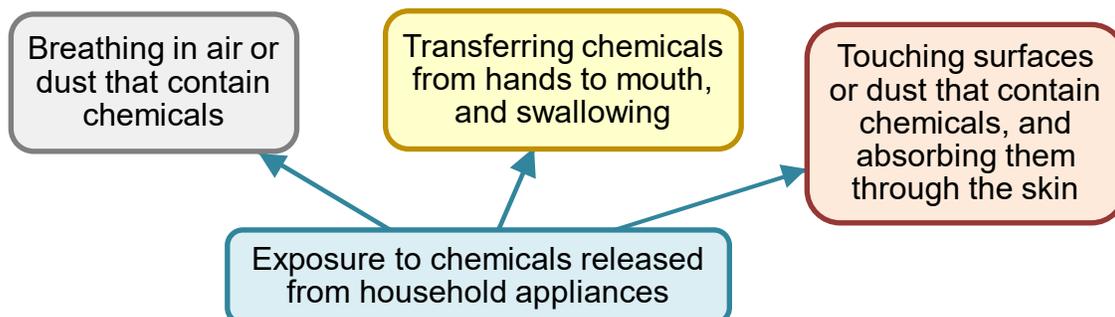


- It is difficult to generalize about chemical exposures from **household appliances**, because each one is different.
- Some household appliances may expose you to chemicals on the Proposition 65 list such as [benzene](#), [carbon monoxide](#), [formaldehyde](#), and some flame retardants and [phthalates](#).
- If you see a Proposition 65 warning on an appliance and have questions about whether using it may expose you to Proposition 65-listed chemicals, contact the product manufacturer for more information.

How can exposure to Proposition 65-listed chemicals from household appliances occur?

- Appliances that use natural gas, such as ranges, dryers, and hot water heaters, may emit benzene, carbon monoxide or formaldehyde when in use. Benzene is present in natural gas, and carbon monoxide and formaldehyde are created when natural gas is burned.
- Some flame retardants and phthalates may be present in plastic components of appliances, including casings, and in electronic and electrical parts such as printed circuit boards, wires, and cables. These chemicals can be released into the air and accumulate in dust.
- During pregnancy, some of these chemicals can pass from mother to baby.

Main ways you can be exposed to Proposition 65-listed chemicals from household appliances:



How can I reduce my potential exposure to Proposition 65-listed chemicals from household appliances?

- ✓ Ensure that all appliances are installed correctly and maintained in good condition. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for appliances that use natural gas or propane. Make sure they are properly [vented to the outside](#).
- ✓ If you think you may have a gas leak associated with a gas-powered appliance, have the appliance inspected and fixed. If there is a strong gas odor, leave the building immediately.
- ✗ Appliances designated for outdoor use, such as barbecue grills or fuel-burning generators, should not be used indoors.
- ✓ Install a carbon monoxide alarm in your home, test it frequently, and replace its batteries as needed.
- ✓ Minimize your exposure to dust.
 - ▶ Wash your hands and your child's hands frequently, especially before preparing food, and before eating.
 - ▶ Clean floors regularly, using a wet mop or a vacuum cleaner with a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter, if possible.
 - ▶ Wipe up dust regularly, using a damp cloth.
- ✓ Safely [dispose](#) of unwanted electrical and electronic household appliances:
 - ✗ Do not disassemble or burn them, or abandon them on the street.
 - ▶ Find out if your city or county has a program to pick up or accept bulky items for recycling.
 - ▶ Some smaller household appliances like microwave ovens that have electronic components are considered [e-waste](#), and must be taken to a designated handler or recycler.
 - ▶ Ask if your retailer offers a haul-away service for your used household appliance when you purchase a new one and have it delivered.
- ✓ Contact the product manufacturer if you have questions about a household appliance with a Proposition 65 warning, and you want to learn how to reduce or avoid exposure to Proposition 65-listed chemicals.

For more information:**General Fact Sheets and Resources**

- US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)
 - ▶ Carbon-Monoxide-Questions-and-Answers
<https://www.cpsc.gov/Safety-Education/Safety-Education-Centers/Carbon-Monoxide-Information-Center/Carbon-Monoxide-Questions-and-Answers>
- US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA)
 - ▶ Responsible Appliance Disposal (RAD)
<https://www.epa.gov/rad/consumers>
 - ▶ Frequently Asked Questions about Safe Disposal of Refrigerated Household Appliances
<https://www.epa.gov/section608/frequently-asked-questions-about-safe-disposal-refrigerated-household-appliances>
- California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)
California Air Resources Board (CARB)
 - ▶ Combustion Pollutants in Your Home
<https://ww3.arb.ca.gov/research/indoor/combustf.htm>
 - ▶ Indoor Air Pollution from Cooking
<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/indoor-air-pollution-cooking>
- CalRecycle
 - ▶ What is E-Waste?
<https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Electronics/WhatisEwaste/>

Proposition 65

- California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)
 - ▶ Proposition 65: Background
<https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/faq>
 - ▶ Proposition 65: The List of Chemicals
<https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/chemicals>
 - ▶ Proposition 65: Fact Sheets
<https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/fact-sheets>