

New Research: Toxic Chemicals Hiding in Certain Albertsons' Products

New product research* demonstrates Albertsons sells numerous private-label products containing toxic chemicals such as fragrance**, formaldehyde releasers, lead, and parabens—chemicals that are harmful to the health of children and others. Some of these chemicals are hormone disruptors and exposure over time has been linked to cancer, learning and developmental disabilities, reproductive harm, skin allergies and other serious health problems. As one of the nation's largest retailers, Albertsons has the power and a responsibility to ensure its products, especially private-label products, don't contain chemicals such as these that are harmful to public health.

Albertsons Products		Chemicals of Concern
BBQ Plus Basting Brush (the handle)***		Bromine (500 PPM) Lead (306 PPM)
BBQ Plus Cleaning Brush***	Back of Brush	Lead (57.5 PPM)
	Handle	Lead (59.4 PPM)
Mom to Mom Baby Lotion		Parfum
Mom to Mom Baby Oil		Fragrance
Mom to Mom Supreme Scented Wipes (Baby)		Fragrance
Signature Care Absolute Moisture Cool & Fresh Aloe Lotion		Fragrance Methylparaben
Signature Care Advanced Hand Sanitizer (32 fluid oz.)		Fragrance
Signature Care Advanced Recovery Lotion		Methylparaben Petrolatum
Signature Care Aloe Vera Hand Soap Refill		Fragrance Methylchloroisothiazolinone Methylisothiazolinone
Signature Care Antibacterial Hand Soap Refill (64 fluid oz.)		DMDM Hydantoin Fragrance
Signature Care Bubble Bath – Coconut Scented/ Lavender Scented/Tangerine Spice Scented		DMDM Hydantoin Fragrance Methylchloroisothiazolinone Methylisothiazolinone
Signature Care Deep Cleaning Nose Strips		Methylparaben
Signature Care Deep Moisturizing Body Wash - Hydrating		Fragrance DMDM Hydantoin
Signature Care Eye Makeup Remover – Oil Free		Cyclohexasiloxane Cyclopentasiloxane

Signature Care Gentle Skin Cleanser	Butylparaben Methylparaben Propylparaben
Signature Care Hand Soap Refill – Clear (64 fluid oz.)	DMDM Hydantoin Fragrance
Signature Care Invigorating Facial Cleanser – Vitamin C & Ginseng	Ethylparaben Fragrance Methylparaben Propylparaben
Signature Care Kids Bubble Bath – Bubble Gum	Fragrance DMDM Hydantoin Methylchloroisothiazolinone Methylisothiazolinone
Signature Care Daily Moisturizing Lotion	Petrolatum
Signature Care Nourishing Nail Polish Remover	Benzophenone-1 Fragrance
Signature Care Sensitive Skin Body Wash	DMDM Hydantoin Fragrance
Signature Home Antibacterial Hand Wipes	Fragrance Methylchloroisothiazolinone Methylisothiazolinone
Signature Home Dishwashing Liquid & Antibacterial Hand Soap – Orange Scent	Fragrance Methylchloroisothiazolinone Methylisothiazolinone

** Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families staff visited Safeway stores in Washington, DC in June and July 2017 to identify products that may contain chemicals of high concern. We reviewed the ingredients on the product labels and searched for information on their toxicity using authoritative scientific sources available in the Chemical Hazard Data Commons, Pharos, Toxnot as well as information compiled by Breast Cancer Prevention Partners and Women’s Voices for the Earth.*

**** We sent a limited number of products to the Ecology Center in Ann Arbor, MI for testing using an XRF device, which identified elevated levels of chemicals of concern in the BBQ basting and cleaning brushes sold by Albertsons. The presence of these and other substances suggests the plastic in the basting brush may possibly be sourced from contaminated electronics-waste.*

Many of these products contain ingredients such as sodium laureth sulfate, PEG compounds, and other ethoxylated ingredients that may be contaminated with the carcinogen 1,4-dioxane. 1,4-dioxane is generated through a process called ethoxylation, in which ethylene oxide, a carcinogen, is added to other chemicals to make them less harsh. The FDA does not require 1,4-dioxane to be listed as an ingredient on product labels because the chemical is a contaminant. Without labeling, there is no way to know for certain whether a product contains 1,4-dioxane, making it difficult for consumers to avoid it. Alternative processes to ethoxylation do exist, but not all companies take advantage of them. Vacuum-stripping can remove 1,4-dioxane from an ethoxylated product.

Health Hazards of Chemicals in Certain Albertsons' Private-Label Products

Chemicals of Concern	Why Are We Concerned?
Benzophenone-1	Benzophenone-1 is considered an endocrine disruptor and has been identified by the states of Maine and Minnesota as a chemical of high concern.
Bromine (Brominated Flame Retardants)	Elevated concentrations of bromine indicate the likely presence of brominated flame retardants (BFRs). Certain BFRs have been linked to hormone disruption, lower IQ, poor attention, and slower motor development.
Cyclohexasiloxane and Cyclopentasiloxane	Both chemicals have been identified as “chemicals of concern” by some authoritative government bodies, including the California Candidate Chemical and Minnesota Chemicals of High Concern lists.
DMDM Hydantoin (Formaldehyde releaser)	DMDM Hydantoin is a preservative that can release formaldehyde over time, which can be absorbed through the skin. Formaldehyde is a known human carcinogen and can cause allergic skin reactions.
Fragrance / Parfum**	Fragrance or Parfum may contain as many as 3,000 ingredients. Fragrance contains undisclosed chemicals of unknown toxicity, and often contains chemicals of concern such as phthalates, synthetic musks and certain allergens. Some of these chemicals can cause allergic rashes, are hormone disruptors, and are linked to cancer, reproductive and developmental toxicity.
Lead	Lead is a potent toxin that can affect nearly every system in the body. While all of us can be affected, children and babies in the womb are the most vulnerable. Children exposed to lead at a young age are more likely to suffer from shorter attention spans and are less able to read and learn than their peers. Scientists have found that there’s no safe level of lead for our children.
Methylchloroisothiazolinone (CMIT) and Methylisothiazolinone (MIT)	Methylisothiazolinone (MIT) and Methylchloroisothiazolinone (CMIT) are two of the most predominant contact allergens found in personal care products. They are of concern for people that are allergic, especially for products containing both substances.
Parabens (Butylparaben, Methylparaben, Propylparaben)	Parabens are preservatives that can be absorbed through the skin. They are endocrine disruptors and linked to developmental and reproductive toxicity, allergies, and immunotoxicity.
Petrolatum	When properly refined, petrolatum or petroleum jelly, has no known health concerns. However, petrolatum is often not fully refined in the United States, which means it can be contaminated with toxic chemicals called polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), chemicals linked to cancer according to federal and international health agencies.