



AB 2771 – PFAS-Free Cosmetics

Summary:

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a class of “forever” chemicals that are widely used, extremely persistent, and can lead to adverse health outcomes. AB 2771 would protect Californians and reduce one source of human exposure to PFAS by prohibiting the sale in California of cosmetics containing these chemicals.

Background:

What Are PFAS? The class of chemicals, known as perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), are a large family of chemicals known for their long-lasting, water and -oil resistant, and temperature-retaining properties. PFAS are often called “forever chemicals,” due to their inability to break down in nature. PFAS are ubiquitous. They are found in many industrial and consumer products, drinking water sources and, because of their extraordinary ability to migrate, they are found in the blood of 99% of Americans.

What’s The Problem? Exposure to PFAS is linked to adverse health effects. Concern about these health risks and PFAS’ pervasive presence in the environment and humans has caused states, such as California, to take action to reduce PFAS sources. To date, California has banned PFAS in food packaging, juvenile products, and fire-fighting foam.

More needs to be done, however. Recent testing, shows that manufacturers also add PFAS to personal care products, such as lipstick, mascara, and shaving cream. Californians should be able to trust that the products they apply to their hair or skin every day are safe. Personal care products sold in California should not contain PFAS.

What Are PFAS’ Health Risks? PFAS have been linked to a higher risk of [harm to the immune system](#), such as [reduced vaccine efficacy](#); [harm to development and the reproductive system](#), such as reduced birth weight and impacts on fertility; [increased risk of certain cancers, including breast cancer](#); and effects on metabolism, such as changes in cholesterol and weight gain.

Why Are PFAS In Cosmetics? These forever chemicals are used in products like lotions, cleansers, shaving cream, lipstick, eyeliner, and mascara to improve durability and texture, and to condition or smooth skin, or make it appear shiny. Cosmetics with the highest levels of PFAS are often marketed as waterproof, wear-resistant or long-lasting.

Are PFAS Really In Cosmetics? Yes. In 2018, EWG scientists scoured the [Skin Deep®](#) database, which contains ingredient lists for more than 85,000 cosmetics, and identified 13 different PFAS compounds used in more than 300 products among more than 50 brands. PTFE – a PFAS chemical better known as Teflon – was the most commonly found ingredient for this class of chemicals, used in more than 200 different products.

More recently in 2021, [Clearya](#) reviewed its database of 50,000 beauty and personal care products and found 1,000 cosmetic products, from 120 brands, that contained PFAS chemicals.

In addition, researchers at the University of Notre Dame also [tested 231 cosmetics](#) for PFAS in 2021. More than half the personal care products contained PFAS, and most products tested did not list any PFAS compounds on their ingredient labels, suggesting that the PFAS were contaminants and not intentionally added ingredients. The study found that more than three-quarters of waterproof mascara, nearly two-thirds of foundations and liquid lipsticks and more than half of eye and lip products had high fluorine concentrations, indicating the likely presence of PFAS.

AB 2771:

Prohibits the sale in California of personal care products containing PFAS.

Related Legislation:

- **AB 2762 (2020)** – Prohibits the sale in CA of cosmetics containing any one of 24 different toxic chemicals, including 13 PFAS.
- **AB 652 (2021)** – Prohibits the sale in CA of children’s products containing PFAS.
- **AB 1200 (2021)** – Prohibits the sale in CA of food packaging containing PFAS.

Support:

Environmental Working Group (cosponsor)
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners (cosponsor)
CALPIRG (cosponsor)

Contact:

Jim Metropulos
Office of Assemblymember Laura Friedman
916.319.2043
jim.metropulos@asm.ca.gov