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## Replacing methylene chloride in paint strippers

Source: *Chemical & Engineering News*, June 11, 2018

Author: Britt E. Erickson

In early May, three mothers traveled to Washington, D.C., to urge members of Congress and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to ban the use of methylene chloride in paint and coating removers. Each of the women had a son who died from exposure to methylene chloride in paint-stripping products purchased at home improvement stores.

After meeting with the families, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said the agency will finalize a rule to limit commercial sales of methylene chloride soon. But what exactly that means and when it will happen is anyone's guess. If EPA does ban the use of methylene chloride in paint removers, then what alternatives are available to consumers? *C&EN* visited several home improvement stores to find out and test how well some of the alternatives perform. We also talked with experts about new formulations currently under development.

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## In This Issue

**Replacing methylene chloride in paint strippers**

**Triclosan, a Common Antimicrobial Ingredient in Toothpaste, Soaps, Linked to Colonic Inflammation, Altered Gut Microbiota**

**New York Launches Disclosure Program Intended to Protect Consumers from Chemicals in Household Cleaning Products**

**Guidance on identifying endocrine disruptors published**

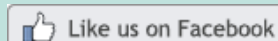
**NIOSH Requests Review of Draft IDLH Values for Bromine Trifluoride, Other Chemicals**

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[TURI Website](#)



## Triclosan, a Common Antimicrobial Ingredient in Toothpaste, Soaps, Linked to Colonic Inflammation, Altered Gut Microbiota

Source: *UMass Amherst*, May 30, 2018

Author: Guodong Zhang

AMHERST, Mass. -- A large research team led by senior author Guodong Zhang at

the University of Massachusetts Amherst reports that the antimicrobial ingredient triclosan, found in hand soaps and toothpastes among other products, could have adverse effects on colonic inflammation and colon cancer by altering gut microbiota, the microbes found in our intestines.

The study reported in *Science Translational Medicine* suggests that short-time treatment with low-dose triclosan caused low-grade colonic inflammation, and exaggerated disease development of colitis and colitis-associated colon cancer in mice, Zhang says. "These results, for the first time, suggest that triclosan could have adverse effects on gut health," he notes.

Co-first authors Haixia Yang and Weicang Wang, both from the Zhang laboratory in the food science department at UMass Amherst, point out that triclosan is among the most widely used antimicrobial ingredients and is found in more than 2,000 consumer products. They note that a National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey showed that triclosan was detected in about 75 percent of the urine samples of individuals tested in the United States and it is among the top ten pollutants found in U.S. rivers.

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See article in *Science Translational Medicine*, "[A common antimicrobial additive increases colonic inflammation and colitis-associated colon tumorigenesis in mice](#)".

## **New York Launches Disclosure Program Intended to Protect Consumers from Chemicals in Household Cleaning Products**

[Source: Bergeson & Campbell, June 7, 2018](#)

In somewhat of a surprise announcement, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) on June 6, 2018, released its final policy and form for manufacturer disclosures under the Household Cleansing Product Information Disclosure Program. The Disclosure Program is similar to the recently enacted California Cleaning Product Right to Know Act of 2017 which requires the disclosure of cleaning product ingredients by way of website or product label. The Household Cleansing Product Information Disclosure Program requires manufacturers of cleaning products sold in New York to disclose chemical ingredients and identify any ingredients that appear on authoritative lists of chemicals of concern on their websites. New York states that it "will be the first state in the nation to require such disclosure and the State's program goes beyond initiatives in other states by requiring the robust disclosure of byproducts and contaminants, as well as chemicals with the potential to trigger asthma in adults and children." NYSDEC has posted the Household Cleansing Product Information Disclosure Program Certification Form and Program Policy and a response to comments.

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See information on the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation's [Household Cleansing Product Information Disclosure Program](#).

## **Guidance on identifying endocrine disruptors published**

[Source: European Chemicals Agency, June 7, 2018](#)

A drafting group consisting of scientific staff from ECHA and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), with the support of the Joint Research Centre (JRC), have developed scientific guidance to enable the identification of endocrine disruptors. The guidance advises applicants and assessors of the competent regulatory authorities on how to identify endocrine disruptors in accordance with the endocrine disruptor criteria.

The European Commission tasked ECHA and EFSA to develop the guidance to ensure

harmonised implementation of the endocrine disruptor criteria throughout the EU for the assessment of biocides and plant protection products. The guidance has been consulted with the Agencies' stakeholders, ECHA's endocrine disruptor expert group and Member States' biocides and pesticides competent authorities.

ECHA will host a webinar on 19 June to explain the practical implications of the criteria and the new guidance to the affected companies and authorities with obligations under the Biocidal Products Regulation.

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## **NIOSH Requests Review of Draft IDLH Values for Bromine Trifluoride, Other Chemicals**

[Source: American Industrial Hygiene Association, June 13, 2018](#)

NIOSH requests technical review of new draft immediately dangerous to life or health [IDLH] values for the chemicals bromine trifluoride, chlorine trifluoride, and ethylene dibromide. Each of the draft "IDLH value profiles" is intended to summarize the health hazards of acute exposures to high airborne concentrations of a chemical and discuss the rationale for the chemical's proposed IDLH value.

NIOSH set the IDLH value for bromine trifluoride at 10 ppm (56 mg/m<sup>3</sup>). Because data were inadequate to directly derive an IDLH value for bromine trifluoride, the agency used data from studies with chlorine trifluoride -- a chemical with similar structure, reaction mechanisms, and potency -- to develop the value for BrF<sub>3</sub>. The IDLH value for chlorine trifluoride is set at 10 ppm (38 mg/m<sup>3</sup>), and is based on a median lethal concentration of 178 ppm in mice exposed for 60 minutes. The IDLH value for ethylene dibromide, 36 ppm (277 mg/m<sup>3</sup>), is based on a 45-minute median lethal concentration value of 800 ppm in rats.

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See [additional information on IDLH values](#) from the National Institute of Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH).

Also see from AIHA, "[NIOSH Identifies Potential for Take-home Contamination at Electronics Recycling Facility](#)". See full report from NIOSH, "[Evaluation of Exposure to Metals at an Electronics Recycling Facility](#)".

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