



Reducing Toxic Pollution

No single source, no single solution



Much of the toxic chemical pollution that enters Washington's environment comes from everyday products such as the brakes on our cars, flame retardants in our furniture, softeners in plastics, and building and roofing materials. As part of his plan to update Washington's water quality standards to comply with the Clean Water Act, the Governor is proposing both new legislation and additional funding for current efforts to help the state tackle the concern of toxics in products.

Key Elements of the Governor's Proposal

Provide a process to address the most problematic toxic chemicals by:

- Identifying the most problematic toxic chemicals.
- Developing chemical action plans, in conjunction with multi-stakeholder advisory committees, to recommend actions to reduce or eliminate the use of a toxic chemical.
- Restricting use of a chemical only if a safer alternative is available.
- Taking steps to reduce the impact of a chemical's use when no viable alternative is available.
- Ensuring the state buys safer products.

Increase support to local communities to reduce effects at the local level. The toxics reduction budget package would:

- Expand the Local Source Control Partnership to major population centers across the state.
- Support efforts to protect pregnant women and young children from exposure to toxics through outreach activities and education.
- Increase biomonitoring to measure chemical exposures in Washington residents.
- Find pollution sources affecting our rivers, lakes and waterways, and provide tools to help local communities reduce those impacts.
- Investigate toxics in stormwater from sources such as roofing materials and tires, and find ways to mitigate those toxics through techniques such as rain gardens and permeable asphalt.

Develop safer chemicals and improve the efficiency of manufacturing processes. The toxics reduction budget package would:

- Accelerate private-sector efforts to develop and market safer chemicals through a competitive grant process.
- Expand technical assistance and Lean programs to help Washington manufacturers reduce their use of water, electricity, natural gas, and toxic chemicals.
- Identify potential alternatives to some of Washington's most toxic chemicals such as polychlorinated biphenyls (commonly known as PCBs) and phthalate plasticizers.