



# Cancer Prevention Coalition

WASHINGTON, D.C., Sept. 21, 1995 — The Cancer Prevention Coalition (CPC) and Ralph Nader will release tomorrow a "Dirty Dozen" list of consumer products used in most American homes, and manufactured by giant U.S. corporations. Brand named "Dirty Dozen" products include: Ajax Cleanser®, Clairol® Nice n' Easy Haircolor and Lysol® Disinfectant.

The "Dirty Dozen" products contain a wide-range of carcinogenic and other toxic ingredients and contaminants to which most of us are exposed daily.

CPC Chairperson Samuel Epstein, M.D., and investigative journalist, David Steinman, compiled the "Dirty Dozen" from data on over 3,500 consumer products analyzed and ranked in their recently published The Safe Shopper's Bible. The good news is that safer alternatives are available for all the "Dirty Dozen".

Nader and CPC urged the manufacturers of the "Dirty Dozen" to reformulate their products with non-toxic alternatives. "Ironically, some "Dirty Dozen" manufacturers also market safer alternatives", said Dr. Epstein.

"What is particularly galling about the "Dirty Dozen", emphasized Ralph Nader, "is that these toxic chemicals don't have to be there. Yet these corporations continue to expose people to health hazards unnecessarily".

Current product labeling provides no warning for cancer and other chronic health risks. Food is labeled for cholesterol, but not for carcinogens. Cosmetics are labeled for major ingredients, but not for those that form carcinogens or contain carcinogenic contaminants. Except for pesticides, household products contain no information on their ingredients.

Cancer rates are skyrocketing. Currently, more than one-third of all of us will develop cancer in our lifetime, and one-fourth will die from the disease. Many cancers are due to avoidable exposures to industrial carcinogens in the food we eat, and the cosmetics and household products we use.

"Americans have a fundamental right-to-know about hazardous chemicals in all consumer products they buy, and the cancer and other risks of those chemicals--information that remains hidden in government and industry files," concluded Dr. Epstein. "With this knowledge, consumers can protect themselves by voting with their shopping dollars and buying safer alternatives".

## **FOOD**

**Beef Frankfurters** - (eg. Oscar Mayer Foods Corporation)

### *Unlabeled Toxic Ingredients*

BENZENE HEXACHLORIDE, Carcinogenic.

DACTHAL, Carcinogenic (can be contaminated with dioxin); irritant; strong sensitizer.

DIELDRIN, Carcinogenic; xenoestrogen.

DDT, Carcinogenic; xenoestrogen.

HEPTACHLOR, Carcinogenic; neurotoxic; reproductive toxin; xenoestrogen.

HEXACHLOROBENZENE, Carcinogenic; neurotoxic; teratogenic.

LINDANE, Carcinogenic; neurotoxic; damage to blood forming cells.

HORMONES: Carcinogenic and feminizing.

ANTIBIOTICS: Some are carcinogenic, cause allergies and drug resistance.

### *Labeled Ingredient*

NITRITE, Interacts with meat amines to form carcinogenic nitrosamines which are a major risk factor for childhood cancers.

*Safer Alternative:*

Nitrite-Free Organic hot dogs or tofu franks.

**Whole Milk** - (eg. Borden or Lucerne)

*Unlabeled Toxic Ingredients*

DDT, Carcinogenic; xenoestrogen.

DIELDRIN, Carcinogenic; xenoestrogen.

HEPTACHLOR, Carcinogenic; neurotoxic; reproductive toxin; xenoestrogen.

HEXACHLOROBENZENE, Carcinogenic; neurotoxic; reproductive toxin.

ANTIBIOTICS: Some are carcinogenic, cause allergies and drug resistance.

RECOMBINANT BOVINE GROWTH HORMONE and IGF-1: Also, risk factor for breast, colon and prostate cancers.

*Safer Alternative:*

rBGH-free Organic skim milk

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## **COSMETICS AND PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS**

**Talcum Powder**- (Johnson & Johnson. Inc.)

*Labeled Toxic Ingredient:*

TALC, Carcinogenic and a risk factor for ovarian cancer; lung irritant.

*Safer Alternative:*

Corn Starch - (Johnson & Johnson, Inc.)

**Cover Girl Replenishing Natural Finish Make Up (Foundation)** (Procter & Gamble. Inc.)

*Labeled Toxic Ingredients*

BHA, Carcinogenic.

TALC, Carcinogenic; Lung Irritant.

TRIETHANOLAMINE (TEA), Interacts with nitrites to form carcinogenic nitrosamines.

LANOLIN, Often contaminated with DDT and other carcinogenic pesticides.

PARABENS, Contact dermatitis.

FRAGRANCE, Wide range of unlabeled, untested, and toxic ingredients; contact dermatitis.

*Safer Alternative:*

Max Factor Pan-Silk Ultra Creamy Makeup (Max Factor, Inc.)

**Crest Tartar Control Toothpaste** - (Procter & Gamble. Inc.)

*Labeled Toxic Ingredients:*

FD&C BLUE #1, Carcinogenic.

SACCHARIN, Carcinogenic.

FLUORIDE, Possibly carcinogenic.

*Safer Alternative:*

Tom's of Maine Natural Non-Fluoride Toothpaste

**Alberto VO5 Conditioner (Essence of Neutral Henna)** (Alberto-Culver USA. Inc.)

*Labeled Toxic Ingredients:*

FORMALDEHYDE, Carcinogenic; neurotoxic; contact dermatitis and sensitizer.

POLYSORBATE 80, Generally contaminated with the carcinogen 1,4-dioxane.

FD&C RED #4, Carcinogenic.

FRAGRANCE, Wide range of undisclosed ingredients; contact dermatitis.

*Safer Alternative:*

Earth Preserv Hair Vitalizer (all scents, but with fragrances) (Earth Preserv, Inc.)

**Clairol Nice 'n Easy (Permanent Haircolor)** (Clairol, Inc.)

*Labeled Toxic Ingredients:*

QUATERNIUM-15, Formaldehyde-releaser; carcinogenic; neurotoxic; contact dermatitis and sensitizer.

DIETHANOLAMINE (DEA), Carcinogenic; also interacts with nitrites to form a carcinogenic nitrosamine.

PHENYLENE-DIAMINES, Includes carcinogens and other ingredients inadequately tested for carcinogenicity; contact dermatitis.

PROPYLENE GLYCOL, Contact dermatitis.

FRAGRANCE, Wide range of undisclosed ingredients; contact dermatitis.

NOTE: Also evidence of causal relation to non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, multiple myeloma and other cancers.

*Safer Alternatives:*

Igora Botanic - Schwarzkopf, Inc. or Logona Henna Black - Natur Kosmetik

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## **HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS**

**Ajax Cleanser** (Colgate-Palmolive, Inc.)

*Unlabeled Toxic Ingredients:*

CRYSTALLINE SILICA, Carcinogenic; eye, skin and lung irritant.

WASHING SODA, Caustic.

NOTE: Carcinogenicity of silica is admitted in 1994 Material Safety and Data Sheet (MSDS). (Manufacturer claims to have reduced silica levels since 1993.)

*Safer Alternative:*

Comet Cleanser (Procter & Gamble, Inc.)

**Zud Heavy Duty Cleanser** (Reckitt & Colman, Inc.)

*Unlabeled Toxic Ingredient:*

CRYSTALLINE SILICA, Carcinogenic; eye, skin and lung irritant. (Carcinogenicity is denied in Material Safety and Data Sheet.)

*Safer Alternative:*

Comet Cleanser (Procter & Gamble, Inc.)

**Lysol Disinfectant Spray** (Reckitt & Colman, Inc.)

*Labeled or Unlabeled Toxic Ingredient:*

ORTHOPHENYLPHENOL (OPP): Carcinogenic; irritant. (Carcinogenicity is denied in Material Safety and Data Sheet.)

*Safer Alternative:*

Airwick Stick Up (Reckitt & Colman, Inc.)

**Zodiac Cat & Dog Flea Collar** (Sandoz Agro, Inc.)

*Labeled Toxic Ingredient*

PROPOXUR, Carcinogenic; neurotoxic.

*Safer Alternative:*

Trader Joe's Herbal Flea Collar for cats or dogs

**Ortho Weed-B-Gon Lawn Weed Killer** (Monsanto Co.)

*Labeled Toxic Ingredient*

SODIUM 2,4-DICHLOROPHENOXYACETATE (2,4-D), Carcinogenic with evidence of casual relation to lymphoma, soft tissue sarcoma and other cancers ; neurotoxic; reproductive toxin.

*Safer Alternative:*

Organic pesticides

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For more information, see: Steinman, D. and Epstein, S.S.

The Safe Shopper's Bible, Macmillan/IDG 1995, New York, NY (800-434-3422)

Epstein, S.S. The Politics of Cancer Revisited, East Ridge Press 1998, Hankins, NY (845-887-6467).

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