



WVE

Women's Voices For The Earth

THE VOICE



Missoula stylist Secret Fifield takes a sample of Katherine Beckley's hair to determine how much mercury is in her body.

released into the environment and threaten public health. This is a major women's health victory in WVE's home state!

We could not have passed this bill without the support of women across Montana. WVE co-hosted house parties with women throughout the state to raise awareness about mercury pollution and the bill. At the parties, women tested samples of their hair to find out the mercury levels in their bodies, learned how to reduce their exposure to this dangerous toxin, and called their legislators urging them to pass the important legislation.

WANT TO KNOW HOW MUCH MERCURY IS IN YOUR BODY?

Test your hair with these easy-to-use kits!

Go to <https://secureusa.greenpeace.org/mercury> to order your kit today!

You Did It: Cleaning Product Giant to Reveal Ingredients!

In March, after months of dialogue with WVE, SC Johnson & Son, Inc. (SCJ) announced that starting immediately they will begin disclosing all of the ingredients in their products, including dyes, fragrances, and preservatives. (Fragrance ingredients will not be identified in individual products, but will be provided as a comprehensive list for all SCJ product lines.) In addition, they will remove phthalates, a class of chemicals that have been linked to reproductive problems, from all of their products. These policy changes are unprecedented among leading cleaning product makers and represent a sea change for the industry.

SC Johnson's announcement came only a year after women like you began hosting green cleaning parties all over the country. To date, more than 1,000 women have signed up to host green cleaning parties in all 50 states and 7

countries, representing some 8,000 participants worldwide. Thanks to your dedication, WVE's messages of better ingredient disclosure and elimination of toxic chemicals in cleaners were featured in such major media outlets as the *New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and "Good Morning America" among many others.

In September 2008, WVE released *The Dirt on Cleaning Product Companies*, a report card that revealed leading cleaning product manufacturers

weren't doing enough to limit their use of toxic chemicals. WVE organized a call-in day and women across the country made calls asking the industry to disclose all ingredients in their products and remove harmful chemicals. Thanks to you and all the women who raised their voices for change, WVE is making it more difficult for manufacturers to hide toxic chemicals in their products.

You can go to **SC Johnson's new website, www.whatsinsidescjohnson.com right now and look up the ingredients in your favorite cleaner.**



Report Reveals Carcinogens in Popular Baby Bath Products

In March, WVE co-released the shocking report *No More Toxic Tub*, which revealed that many top-selling children's bath products, including Johnson's® Baby Shampoo, are contaminated with the cancer-causing chemicals formaldehyde and 1-4 dioxane. But you won't find these chemicals on labels because they're contaminants, not ingredients. This means that

they're by-products of chemical processing and are therefore exempt from labeling laws. Manufacturers can easily remove these toxic by-products, but aren't required by law to do so.

Visit www.womenandenvironment.org/campaignsandprograms/SafeCosmetics and tell Congress to take action to remove dangerous chemicals from baby products!

Non-Toxic Tip:

When I found out that vinyl shower curtains release chemicals linked to brain and reproductive disorders, I switched to 100% polyester liners. They're waterproof, good for your health, and don't have that yucky smell!

-Janice M., Chicago, IL

Have a non-toxic tip to share? Send it to wve@womenandenvironment.org or call 406-543-3747. If we print yours we'll send you a free WVE tote bag!



A Note from Erin

As WVE's new acting executive director, I'm excited to work with you to protect women and our families from exposure to toxic chemicals. In fact, I've been working on these issues with WVE since 2005 when I joined as the lead organizer on the Mercury and Public Health campaign. I later became a senior campaign organizer on our Safe Cleaning Products Initiative, and most recently served as WVE's program director. I've been privileged to get to know many of you through the years, and I look forward to collaborating with many more of you in the future.

In July I was honored to attend a meeting of SisterSong, a national network of women of color led organizations working for reproductive justice. We were one of eight organizations called together to develop a training module to explain the intersections between environmental justice and reproductive justice. By collaborating with SisterSong and other reproductive health and justice organizations, WVE can reach more women of diverse backgrounds with critical information on toxics in products and their impacts to reproductive health. And likewise, these partnerships strengthen WVE's campaign work by ensuring our policy demands are inclusive of the needs of all women. This is especially important as we gear up this fall for federal legislation regulating the use of toxic chemicals in personal care products.

Stay tuned for ways in which you can support efforts to pass stronger, more effective safety standards for chemical usage in products. If you aren't already a member of our Action Network, now is the time to join so that you can stay updated on how to get involved. Visit www.womenandenvironment.org to sign up today.

Warmest Regards,

Erin Thompson Switalski

Is Your Nail Polish Free from Toxics?

Is your nail polish hazardous to your health? The National Healthy Nail Salon Alliance, of which WVE is a founding member, recently surveyed popular nail polish manufacturers to discover whether they've removed the "toxic trio" (toluene, formaldehyde, and dibutyl phthalate) from their products. The three ingredients have been linked to cancer and

reproductive problems. The survey, *Phasing Out the Toxic Trio*, is a follow up to our 2007 report *Glossed Over*, which exposed the health impacts linked to toxic chemicals in nail products. Download the survey, which is available in English and Vietnamese, at www.womenandenvironment.org.

facebook

Become a WVE Fan on Facebook!

Stay updated on the latest news on toxics and your health. To become a fan, go to www.womenandenvironment.org or search for Women's Voices for the Earth on Facebook.



Blackfeet Housing employees mix up batches of Creamy Soft Scrub using WVE's non-toxic recipe.

Blackfeet Housing Hosts Green Cleaning Workshop

Situated just outside of one of the nation's most pristine and beautiful national parks, the Blackfeet Reservation has one of the worst rates of childhood asthma in the country. That's why WVE was recently invited by the Blackfeet Healthy Homes Partnership to conduct a green cleaning workshop with employees of Blackfeet Housing in Browning, MT. WVE presented information about the links between traditional cleaning products and asthma and other health concerns. Blackfeet Housing employees then assembled 150 green cleaning kits that were distributed to

low-income residents on the reservation. The kits included non-toxic cleaners and recipes, gloves, sponges, and information on how to improve indoor air quality. Kits were also delivered to the Fort Belknap Reservation, over 200 miles away. WVE is proud to be a part of this effort and will continue to serve as a resource to the Blackfeet Healthy Homes Partnership as it works to create a healthier environment for the Blackfeet people.

DONORS

We received the following donations of \$50 or more between January 1, 2009 and July 31, 2009. Space limitations prevent us from thanking all of our donors here, but every contribution, regardless of size, is critical to the success of our work.

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|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
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If we have made an error either in the spelling of your name or have omitted your name, please contact us at 406-543-3747.

How to Support WVE's Work

Together we can create healthy homes, workplaces, and communities by reducing environmental hazards that adversely impact women's health. Please donate online at www.womenandenvironment.org/donate or call Ali Solomon at 406-543-3747.

CASH GIFT – Make automatic monthly payments to sustain WVE's work

BEQUEST– Designate WVE as a recipient of a cash gift or a percentage of your estate in your will.

EMPLOYEE MATCHING PLAN – Have your employer match your contribution

TRIBUTE/MEMORIAL – Honor or remember a special individual with a contribution

STOCK – By contributing appreciated stocks, you receive a tax deduction while avoiding capital gains

Tell the FDA to Get Lead out of Lipstick

A year after the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics (CSC), of which WVE is a founding member, reported that popular brands of lipstick contained lead, the CSC continues to pressure the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to take action to resolve this public health issue. The FDA—the government agency responsible for regulating the safety of consumer products—still has not released data on its own lipstick tests or taken any steps to protect people from this dangerous ingredient. Go to www.womenandenvironment.org/campaignsandprograms/SafeCosmetics and tell the FDA to take action.

WVE is working with members of Congress to push for introduction of comprehensive safe cosmetics legislation that would give the FDA the authority it needs to ensure that not just lipstick, but that all cosmetics do not contain ingredients linked to adverse health effects. Stay tuned for more information in the coming months on how to contact your legislators about supporting this important bill.



Lipstick should be safe. Not toxic.

WVE and Earthjustice File Suit Against Leading Cleaning Product Manufacturers

Late last year, WVE joined environmental law firm Earthjustice as the lead petitioner in a lawsuit against four leading cleaning product manufacturers for failing to follow a New York law that requires them to disclose their ingredients to the state. The law, which is more than 30 years old, also requires companies to disclose the nature and extent of health studies they conduct on their products. To date, the law has not been enforced. This appears to be the only law of its kind in the nation and WVE hopes that the case will shed light on the fact that cleaning products are highly unregulated and contain potentially harmful chemicals. Once companies comply with the law, we will finally learn what chemicals are in products and what their potential health impacts are, paving the way for actions to remove harmful ingredients. We'll keep you posted as the case progresses!

Spread the Word About Toxics in Products

If you're like us, you want to tell everyone you know about the health hazards that certain chemicals in everyday products pose. To make it easy for you to do so, we developed a 20-minute slide show called "Your Health, Your Voice." We'll send you a CD, discussion questions, and handouts so that you have everything you need to make your presentation a success. Sign up online at www.womenandenvironment.org/Actions/yourhealthyvoice



Conference attendees discuss the important role masks play in protecting salon workers from airborne toxics.

WVE Brings Together Groups to Discuss Nail Salon Worker Safety

In April, the National Healthy Nail Salon Alliance (Alliance), of which WVE is a founding member, co-sponsored a convening of researchers, cosmetology workers, and advocates to discuss how to advance worker health and safety in the nail salon and cosmetology communities. Attendees identified many areas that need further attention, including examining the barriers salon owners face in "greening" their businesses and eliminating the use of chemicals that pose health threats to workers. The Alliance will use information generated at the convening to inform future projects aimed at protecting the health of the nation's nail salon workers.

WVE Staff:

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jean Claire Duncan, <i>Director of Finance & Administration</i> | Jamie Silberberger, <i>Campaigns Manager</i> |
| Maria Gonzalez-Mabbutt, <i>Outreach Advisor</i> | Ali Solomon, <i>Director of Communications/Donor Development</i> |
| Cassidy Randall, <i>Program & Development Associate</i> | Erin Thompson Switalski, <i>Acting Executive Director</i> |
| Alexandra Scranton, <i>Director of Science & Research</i> | |

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| Angela Park, Hartland, VT | |

WVE Mentions

"What WVE is working toward and what all the women that we work with are calling for is national regulation, is a legally required action to disclose all the ingredients in cleaning products, and that includes every manufacturer, whether or not they declare themselves as green."

- WVE Board Member Anja Rudiger on the "Today" Show

"[Green cleaning parties] were the brainchild of a group called Women's Voices for the Earth who says that mixing their own cleaning products is cheaper and safer than buying commercial products. . . And now the parties are spreading."

- "Good Morning America"

"...Women's Voices for the Earth, outlined its concerns about certain chemicals in its 2007 Household Hazards report. . . Doctors and advocacy groups are also concerned about glycol ethers, which have been linked to reduced fertility and low birth weight in mice, according to the WVE report."

- Wall Street Journal

During the 2009 Sustainable Fragrance for Cleaners conference, Michelle Radecki, General Counsel of The Soap and Detergent Association (SDA) mentioned that the SDA is developing a model for responding to non-profits like Women's Voices for the Earth and Earthjustice.

WVE Goodies? Yes, Please!



We've revamped our tote bags! The new WVE tote is made out of 100% recycled plastic bottles, but looks and feels like a canvas bag. They're made completely in the USA by Enviro-tote, a women-owned corporation.

Order your new tote, a WVE organic cotton t-shirt, and your Green Cleaning Party Kit by visiting www.womenandenvironment.com/merchandise or by calling 406-543-3747.

Supporter Spotlight



As the director of career services at a college in Kansas, Garnett Zamboni has years of experience providing

resources and advice to students and members of her community. When she discovered WVE's Green Cleaning Party Kit, she felt compelled to share this critical information with others. According to Garnett, "the more people who become aware, the greater the impact we can have on reducing toxic exposures."

Garnett held a green cleaning class in March at her public library that was so successful, she had to turn away 10 people due to class size limitations. Because of high interest, she is offering another green cleaning party in September at the library. She also worked with WVE to have her local library carry a Green Cleaning Party Kit on their circulation shelf.

Garnett has told WVE that she's proud to be involved with our organization. We feel the same about you, Garnett! **Please keep up the good work!**

We want to know what you are doing in your community to help engage and educate women on toxics. Please share your stories and actions so that we can highlight your good work. Email us at wve@womenandenvironment.org.



Water Cooler Chats: Where Knowledge and Action Meet

In March, WVE launched the first Water Cooler Chat, a series of one-hour phone calls in which supporters like you, WVE staff, and outside experts meet to talk about important environmental health issues.

Water Cooler Chats offer a chance to get your questions answered by the experts, "de-mystify" the science, and take action on the issues that matter to you. These chats are also your opportunity to connect with other WVE supporters to share your own ideas and concerns. Join the next call and empower yourself

with knowledge! To find out when the next Water Cooler Chat will be, join WVE's Action Network at www.womenandenvironment.org or call 406-543-3747.

Tell Us What You Think!

We've enclosed a short survey so that you can share how you'd like to stay connected with the WVE community. Please fill out the enclosed card and send it to WVE in the reply envelope or save a stamp and complete the online version at www.womenandenvironment.org/2009survey. Thank you!

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