



Product Testing for the People:

Pitfalls, Persistence, and Progress in Transforming Dollar Stores

CAMPAIGN FOR
Healthier
Solutions

In 2024, the **Campaign for Healthier Solutions** invited community members across the country to purchase everyday dollar store products from **Dollar Tree, Dollar General and Family Dollar** and submit them to the **Ecology Center** lab to be screened for chemicals of concern.

Campaign leaders also downloaded the **Clearya App** and scanned dollar store product labels for the presence of potentially toxic chemicals, which was later checked by the Clearya Insights platform.

Our community-driven in-store analysis, coupled with separate product testing, is meant to hold these dollar stores accountable to the public commitments they made to remove priority chemicals from their supply chain, and urge them to expand their restricted substances lists and seek safer solutions.



46 out of **130** products purchased at major dollar stores in the personal care, beauty, baby and cleaning aisles were shown by the Clearya Insights platform to contain chemicals of concern. For example, this baby lotion purchased at Dollar Tree contains the **formaldehyde-releaser diazolidinyl urea**. Formaldehyde is known to cause **cancer**.

Safe shopping tip:

Download the free Clearya app on your phone and scan cosmetic and cleaning products before you buy them to make sure they are free of harmful ingredients.



Lead, which is unsafe at any level for children, was again found in products sold at Dollar Tree and Dollar General. Ecology Center researchers used X-ray fluorescence (XRF) to scan for lead in 217 products. Lead was detected in the interior components of 5 electronic toys, such as this light-up bracelet sold at Dollar General, as well as several holiday items, such as Valentines Day candy pails sold at Dollar Tree.

Safe shopping tip:

Avoid purchasing costume jewelry from dollar stores, and be mindful of electronics, which may contain chemicals of concern in their interior parts, especially if you have young children in your household.



PVC, “the poison plastic”, is widely found on dollar store shelves, including in the toy aisle. We highlight 11 children’s products purchased at Dollar Tree/Family Dollar, and 10 children’s products purchased at Dollar General, that were confirmed to be made with PVC. In 2021, Dollar Tree publicly committed to prohibit PVC plastic in private-brand children’s products and encourage its suppliers to restrict the use of PVC in children’s products by 2024.

 **Safe shopping tip:**

Avoid purchasing plastic toys as much as possible, especially for very young children who might put them in their mouths. Wood, cotton, and natural materials are safer to look for if buying for young children. PVC items are not clearly marked in stores.



Bisphenol-S (BPS) was found in all receipts tested from Dollar General and Dollar Tree/Family Dollar. This chemical has been linked to reproductive health issues and breast cancer. Safer alternatives to BPS already exist and are in use by some retailers.

 **Safe shopping tip:**

Skip the receipt, or wash your hands after handling thermal paper receipts.



Four samples of microwaveable popcorn from four different brands (Orville Redenbacher, Act II, Clover Valley, Pop Secret) were purchased from Dollar General and Dollar Tree and sent to Galbraith Laboratories for testing.

Some good news!

Our tests did not detect fluorine and fluoride in the packaging of microwave popcorn bags purchased at dollar stores, suggesting that they are now PFAS free.



Scan the QR code below to learn more about our 2025 product testing report, and read our full recommendations to Dollar General and Dollar Tree.

**PEOPLE
OVER
PROFITS!**