Our communities deserve to know what’s hidden in these stores and to act in our best interest, that is, a life of wellbeing and dignity for all.

Suguet Lopez, Executive Director
Organizacion en California de Lideres Campesinas

The Campaign for Healthier Solutions
The Campaign for Healthier Solutions is made up of interested organizations, Dollar store customers, and investors who seek to work with discount retailers to help them protect their customers and the communities in which they operate, and also grow their businesses, by implementing corporate policies to identify and phase out harmful chemicals in the products they sell.

Six Things You Can Do

1. Visit nontoxicdollarstores.org and ask the CEOs of Dollar store chains to take action.
2. Avoid products that do not have manufacturer information on the package. Look for name, location, contact information, and what materials the product contains.
3. Avoid soft plastic products, such as toys, bathroom goods and housewares, as they’re very likely made from toxic PVC plastic.
4. Be very selective about jewelry and other metal items as they may contain lead. Rub the item against a white piece of paper—if it leaves a gray mark, don’t buy it.
5. Read labels and avoid food products with low nutritional quality, artificial ingredients, or that are expired.
6. Visit recalls.gov to make sure none of the products you want to buy have been recalled.

TOXIC DANGERS AT THE DOLLAR STORE

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Other large retailers, such as Walmart and Target, have adopted policies to avoid some of the most toxic chemicals in the products they sell. But Dollar stores lag behind, putting both their customers and their own businesses at risk.

**SafEr proDUcTS arE poSSiblE**

Dollar store chains need to step up. Which one will seize the opportunity to become the leader in selling nontoxic products?

The Campaign for Healthier Solutions is calling on Dollar stores to:

- remove products containing toxic phthalates and heavy metals from their shelves immediately.
- adopt corporate policies that require suppliers to disclose chemicals in products, find safer alternatives, and phase out the worst chemicals.
- make healthy foods and safer products available.

Dollar stores sell thousands of products. The Campaign for Healthier Solutions tested products bought from the four largest chains across the country. The testing found that:

- 81% of the products tested contained one or more hazardous chemicals.
- 49% of the products tested contained two or more hazardous chemicals.
- At least 71% of the products tested from each chain contained one or more hazardous chemicals.

Scientific research has linked the chemicals found in dollar store products to learning disabilities, cancer, diabetes, reduced fertility, and other serious illnesses disproportionately affecting low-income communities and communities of color.

Forty percent of dollar store sales are for food—most of which is highly processed with low nutritional quality. Food packaging is another potential source of toxic chemicals.

Why can’t Dollar stores carry more fresh produce?