

# CAMPAIGN FOR Healthier Solutions

## Product Chemical Hazard Screening Report

JUNE 2021

**DOLLAR  
GENERAL®**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**T**he Campaign for Healthier Solutions a project of Coming Clean Inc. and the Environmental Justice and Health Alliance commissioned The Ecology Center Healthy Stuff Lab to conduct a screening of consumer products sold at discount retailers, also

known as dollar stores. This report presents a summary of the results of the testing and highlights select products with hazardous chemicals of concern from Dollar General. Thirty-seven (37) Dollar General products were purchased at six retailers in California, Maine, New Mexico and Pennsylvania.

**Sample Collection:** In early 2021, 226 products were purchased from all of the leading dollar store retailers in the US and Canada. Products were purchased from seven states (Michigan, Pennsylvania, California, New Mexico, Washington, Maine, Texas) and Ontario, Canada. Products tested included 226 consumer products, 33 cans of food, and 22 packages of microwave popcorn. Receipts from 28 store purchases were also tested. The 226 products contained a total of 635 unique components or materials. Each of these were tested using one or more test methods, depending on the typical chemicals of concern for that product type. For food products, the packaging, not the food, was tested.

Chemicals of concern are those which, due to their inherent hazardous properties, present a known or reasonably suspected risk to human health and/or the environment. The levels of concern for each chemical were established by Healthy Stuff Lab by reviewing levels restricted in one or more of the most protective government, corporate, or third-party standards on hazards in consumer products.

These levels are similar to those used in our 2015 sampling of dollar store products.

You can access the 2015 report [here](#)

Products were subjected to 4 different analytical techniques:

**High-definition X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy (HD XRF):** 635 product components were screened for elements of interest by HD XRF using an HD Mobile spectrometer by XOS. This technique measures levels of elements heavier than aluminum on the periodic table. This includes toxic metals such as lead and cadmium as well as bromine, chlorine, and phosphorus that, depending on the matrix, can indicate flame retardant chemicals.

**Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy:**

A subset of components were analyzed by FTIR to determine the polymer type (for example, cotton or polyethylene) and major additives. A subset were also subject to solvent extraction followed by FTIR to test for the presence of additives such as plasticizers or flame retardant chemicals.

**Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS)**

**Analysis:** Eleven products determined to contain ortho-phthalates (“phthalates”) or alternative plasticizers according to our FTIR screening were sent for further analysis at Eurofins, a contract laboratory.

Eurofins quantified phthalates by following the CPSC test method CPSC-CH-C1001-09.4. The method uses solvent extraction followed by internal standard addition and analysis of the extract by gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) for phthalates and other plasticizers of interest. The lab tested for eleven phthalates and four alternative plasticizers.

**Total Fluorine by Oxygen Flask Combustion and Ion-Selective Electrode:** Select food packaging was evaluated for possible PFAS presence at Galbraith Laboratories by measuring total fluorine. This method detects fluorine from both polymeric and non-polymeric PFAS and thus is used to screen items for likely PFAS.

Arsenic > 100	Bromine > 400	Cadmium > 100	Chlorine > 10,000	Chromium > 100	Mercury > 100	Lead > 100	Antimony > 100	Tin > 100
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**Threshold Levels, in parts per million**

## CHEMICAL HAZARD SCREENING SUMMARY

### DOLLAR GENERAL

**T**he preliminary screening results for the Dollar General products indicate a number of chemical hazards are present in these products. **Overall, 43% of the products screened had one or more chemicals of concern.**

The following concerns were identified in the products which were tested.

- Canned food products with PVC based can body coatings
- Microwave popcorn products with PFAS coatings inside the packaging
- Bisphenol S in 100% of store receipts tested from all retailers
- Products made with flexible PVC which have plasticizers

**Number of Products with Chemical of Concern (COC) Detected, above screening level**

Retailer	# Products	1 or more COC	Percentage
Dollar General	37	16	43%

*Note: This data is preliminary and subject to change as further analysis of these products is completed.*

## DOLLAR GENERAL PRODUCTS TESTED, PRODUCT — BRAND/DISTRIBUTOR

321 Party, Party Favors & Pinata Fillers — Old EastMain Co.	Mixed Fruit Cups — Clover Valley/Dolgencorp, LLC
6 Bounce Balls — DG/Dolgencorp, LLC	Paw Patrol Teether Rattle Toy — Regent Baby Products Corp.
9 oz. Bottle Silicone Nipple — Swiggles	Pink Reusable Baggie — DG
Antibacterial Hand Sanitizer Spray — Dongguan Boze Technology Co. LTD	Plastic Tablecover, Multicolor 54 in. x 84 in. — DG/Dolgencorp, LLC
Baby King Sippy Cup — Regent Baby Products Corp.	Plates — Party!/Old East Main Co.
Bead Necklaces — Party!/Old East Main Co.	Princess Tiara — DG Party/Dolgencorp, LLC
Beef & Bean Burrito — Tina's	Pull-Top Sports Bottle — Kids 2 Grow
Clover Valley Crushed Tomatoes	Reusable Ice Cubes — trueliving/Old East Main Co.
Clover Valley Sweet Peas	Salsa Bowl — trueliving/Old East Main Co.
Clover Valley Shredded White Chicken	Spider-man Headphones — Tech2Go/Tech 2 Go, LLC
Cool Gear Double Wall Insulated Bottle — Cool Gear International, LLC	Super Realz Crocodile — Hedstrom
Fashion Choker, 5 pack — Old East Main Co.	Travel Coffee Cup — Old East Main Co.
Glad for Kids! Soak Proof Bowls — Brand Buzz LLC	Tutu Cute Set! — All Dressed Up! to Shine
Happy Easter Hand Sanitizer — Elegant HeadwearCo., Inc.	Twist & Shake Rattle — cribmates/Regent Baby Products Corp.
kidentials bow — Kidentials	Vinyl Tablecloth with Flannel Back — Trueliving
Marvel PET Bottle — Zak Designs, Inc.	Wacky Lips — Jokes & Gags/Ja-Ru Inc.
Metallic Bead Necklaces — 321 Party/Old East Main,Co.	Water Teether — Swiggles
Mighty Mustache — Ja-Ru Inc.	9 in. Round Cake Pan — True Living
Non-Stick Fry Pan Set — Evolution	

**DOLLAR  
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## DOLLAR GENERAL PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS

### ORVILLE REDENBACHER'S POPCORN

**Retailer:** Dollar General  
**Retailer State:** California  
**Chemicals of concern:** 625 PPM Total Fluorine  
(PFAS grease-proof coating present)



### TRUE LIVING 9 IN. ROUND CAKE PAN

**Retailer:** Dollar General  
**UPC:** 7286701468  
**Retailer State:** Michigan  
**Chemicals of concern:** PTFE (PFAS Fluoro-polymer)  
+ PES (Polyethersulfone)



### WACKY LIPS

**Retailer:** Dollar General  
**UPC:** 7565601355  
**Retailer State:** California  
**Chemicals of concern:** PVC (>50% chlo-rine),  
DOTP Plasticizer



**CLOVER VALLEY SHREDDED WHITE CHICKEN**

**Retailer:** Dollar General  
**Brand/Distributor:** Clover Valley, Old East Main Co.  
**UPC:** 1972216724  
**Retailer State:** California  
**Chemicals of concern:** PVC copolymer coating on interior of the can



**EVOLUTION NON-STICK FRY PAN SET**

**Retailer:** Dollar General  
**UPC:** 635928028104  
**Retailer State:** Michigan  
**Chemicals of concern:** BPA-based Epoxy Coating



**PURCHASE RECEIPTS**

**Retailer:** Dollar General  
**UPC:** N/A  
**Retailer State:** Multiple  
**Chemicals of concern:** All receipts tested positive for Bisphenol S



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**T**he Campaign for Healthier Solutions is a project of the Environmental Justice Health Alliance for Chemical Policy Reform and Coming Clean. We would like to recognize the anchor groups, affiliates, and partner organizations that were essential in moving this project forward. Their continued commitment to protect Environmental Justice Communities has made the campaign's progress over the years possible.

We also would like to give a special mention to the Ecology Center Healthy Stuff Lab for testing the products we purchased, then compiling, analyzing, and explaining the data for this report. We have worked with them numerous times in the past and look forward to future collaborations.

### CAMPAIGN FOR HEALTHIER SOLUTIONS ANCHOR GROUPS

**Los Jardines Institute** – Albuquerque, New Mexico  
**Líderes Campesinas** – Oxnard, California  
**Harambee House** – Savannah, Georgia

### AFFILIATES AND PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

**Physicians for Social Responsibility-LA** – Los Angeles, California  
**Learning Disabilities Association of Maine** – Windham, Maine  
**Environmental Defence Canada** – Toronto, Canada  
**Clean Production Action**

## CONTACT US

### CONTACT FOR TESTING RESULTS

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