

SAMPLE LETTER TO THE EDITOR FOR MOMS AND DADS

Your name

Your address

Your phone number

I want to express my growing concern that companies are allowed to put chemicals in cleaning products that may cause health problems, and they are not even required to tell us what is in them. I recently read a report called *Household Hazards*, and was appalled to learn that cleaners I use like Mr. Clean, Lysol and Simple Green contain chemicals that have been linked to birth defects, infertility, and asthma among other health problems. Studies have shown that pregnant women exposed to certain chemicals in their work environment were significantly more likely to have children with birth defects. Additionally, frequent use of certain chemicals both at home and in schools has been associated with increased likelihood of asthma in children. In fact, I learned that there are over 85,000 chemicals registered on the U.S. market, and only a small fraction of those have been tested for their long-term impact on human health.

I have a responsibility to keep my child safe, and I can't do that without information to make choices that will protect my family. . That's why I believe that companies need to list the ingredients they use on the product labels. Furthermore, the government needs to regulate potentially harmful chemicals by requiring that products are tested for their long-term health impacts. Until companies like Proctor & Gamble, Clorox, and SC Johnson can assure me that my child won't develop long-term health problems from their products, I plan to make my own with non-toxic ingredients like baking soda and vinegar. (You can find recipes at www.womenandenvironment.org) Finally, I urge our government representatives to introduce legislation to require companies to disclose the ingredients they use and to require testing to prove that chemicals are safe BEFORE allowing them on the market and into our homes.