

GENERAL SAMPLE LETTER TO SENATOR/REPRESENTATIVE

(Your Senator/Representative's name)
(Office address - check www.house.gov or www.senate.gov)

Date

Dear Senator/Representative (last name),

I am writing to ask you to take action to hold cleaning companies accountable for potentially dangerous ingredients in their products. I recently read *Household Hazards*, a report by Women's Voices for the Earth that exposes the link between certain chemicals in common cleaning products and asthma and reproductive harm. For example, monoethanolamine (MEA) is found in some laundry detergents, and is known to induce occupational asthma. Glycol ethers, solvents commonly used in glass and all-purpose cleaners, have been linked to birth defects and fertility problems. In addition to these known possible effects, tens of thousands of chemicals are used in American industry, placed in products, and released to our environment with very little information on the potential consequences for human health.

I'm asking that the government require cleaning companies such as Proctor & Gamble, SC Johnson, Clorox, and others to remove toxic chemicals from their products until they can prove that these chemicals are safe. In addition, the government should require companies to inform consumers of potentially dangerous chemicals by disclosing all ingredients on the product label. The European Union has already worked to address this issue by enacting regulations that require companies to disclose all their ingredients to consumers on a website and ones that they've determined to be allergens on the product labels. The U.S. government should follow the E.U.'s path in taking steps to protect its citizens from potentially harmful chemicals.

I recently hosted a Green Cleaning Party through Women's Voices for the Earth to make my own cleaning supplies with non-toxic ingredients like vinegar and baking soda. At my party, we talked about the serious health concerns we had with using household cleaners. One study shows that women today are still doing over 70% of the housework in the average home, which puts women at increased risk for health hazards associated with chemicals found in common cleaners like Tide and Simple Green.

With labeling, I have access to the information I need to make informed choices about what I buy. I encourage you to introduce legislation to require companies to remove unsafe chemicals from their products, and to fully disclose ingredients on the product label.

I would appreciate a response to this letter, to let me know that you are paying attention to my concerns. Thank you.

Sincerely,
(Your name)
(Your address)

