

## GENERAL SAMPLE LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Your name

Your address

Your phone number

I am increasingly concerned by the fact that companies like Proctor & Gamble and SC Johnson are not required to disclose the ingredients of their household cleaners on the product label. These companies use chemicals such as monoethanolamine and ammonium quaternary compounds (found in common cleaners like Tide, Clorox, and Simple Green), that have been linked to asthma and reproductive harm. According to *Household Hazards*, a report by Women's Voices for the Earth that discusses the links between chemicals in common cleaners and serious health problems, there are very limited legal requirements for ingredient labeling on household cleaning products. This means that we can't make the choices to avoid certain ingredients that may trigger asthma attacks, allergic reactions, or more serious long-term effects such as fertility problems and birth defects.

Not only are these chemicals potentially hazardous to our health, they can be environmental hazards as well. A 2002 study by USGS showed that nearly 70% of streams of tested contained breakdown products of detergents, while 66% contained disinfectants. These chemicals are leaking into our water supply, and some have been found to reduce embryo survival in fish and alter tadpole development.

The European Union has already taken action on 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. I urge the U.S. government to do the same, and to go a step further: companies should be required to prove that their products are safe BEFORE they can be sold on the market. Please call or write your Congressperson today to take action to protect your health and safety.