



What is triclosan?

Triclosan is a man-made chemical used as an antimicrobial, a deodorant agent, and preservative in a wide variety of consumer products in Canada. The government of Canada has recognized that triclosan is toxic to aquatic organisms. In the US, manufacturers could not prove that triclosan is safe for use nor that it is more effective than ordinary soap and water in preventing illness and the spread of infections.

Where is triclosan found?

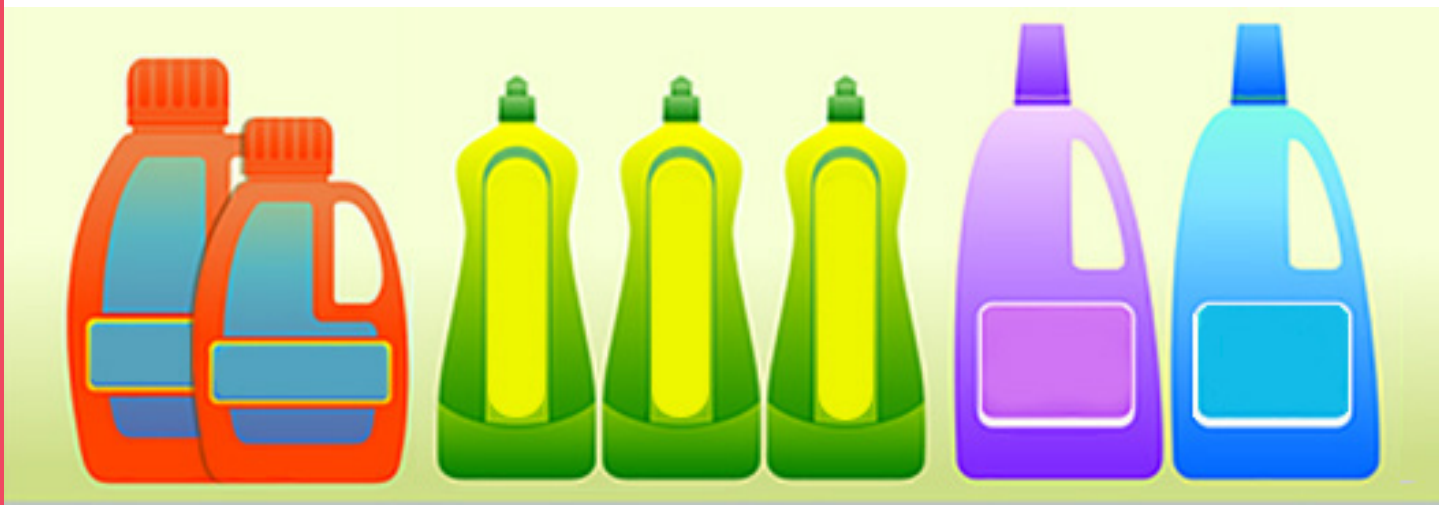
Triclosan is present in products in your house, school, and office. It is commonly found in personal care products like:

- Skin cleansers, body washes, shower gels, soaps, hand sanitizers, and deodorants
- Shampoos
- Toothpaste and mouthwash
- Lotions, fragrances, and eye and face make-up

It is also found in cleaning products like general purpose cleaners, dish soaps, and detergents.

What is the problem with triclosan?

Triclosan has been shown to pose a level of hazard to aquatic organisms that is concerning. Studies have shown that it can produce a reduction in growth, reproduction, and survival to aquatic invertebrates and vertebrates, and terrestrial organisms including plants. It is also known to lead to more hazardous chemicals like methyl-triclosan during the wastewater treatment process.





What is the government of Canada doing?

The federal government has decided not to ban triclosan despite its toxicity to aquatic organisms. Instead, it has proposed a reduction target of 30% for total quantity of triclosan used or imported annually.

We, along with many concerned citizens and organizations, believe that the federal government is not doing enough to ensure the highest protection for our water and aquatic ecosystems. We think that the government should:

1. Ban triclosan
2. Assess alternatives to and usage necessity of triclosan
3. Review all recent studies on the impacts to health and environment associated with triclosan before making its final draft plan in 2018

We also believe that the government's weak response to triclosan is symptomatic of a much wider issue: the need to [reform the Canadian Environmental Protection Act](#), the main law used to manage toxic and other harmful substances in Canada.

What have other governments done?

In the US, triclosan was banned federally in products that are used with water such as soaps. One state, Minnesota, so far has also banned its use in all cleaning products. The European Union has placed limits of use of triclosan for products like toothpastes, hand soaps, and deodorants. They have also banned triclosan entirely from certain uses such as film preservatives, fibre, preservatives, and disinfectants.





How can you find out if there is triclosan in the products you buy or use?

- 1) Look at the ingredient label on your personal care products. These types of products generally have to list ingredients by law. If you see triclosan, do not buy or use it.
- 2) Unfortunately, manufacturers are not required to label cleaning products like general purpose cleaners, dish soaps and detergents. If ingredients are not listed on the label, you can call the manufacturer to find out if there is triclosan in your product. Doing this will also show the manufacturer that there is mounting concern.
- 3) Join the movement to demand better labelling laws for products that contain toxic chemicals. You can start by signing the [petition](#) demanding this from our friends at Environmental Defence.

How can you dispose of products containing triclosan?

You can call your municipality to see if you can dispose of triclosan like you would other hazardous waste. If not, just look towards the future and do not purchase more products containing triclosan.

What can you do to stop triclosan from going into our water?

[Pledge to take action on toxic triclosan](#) in your home, office or school and encourage your family and friends to do the same. Together we can keep toxics out of our water.

