

CNN – Paging Dr. Gupta blog

Fragrance companies withhold chemical information

<http://pagingdrgupta.blogs.cnn.com/2010/05/12/fragrance-companies-withhold-chemical-information/>

By David S. Martin

CNN Medical Senior Producer

Perfumes commonly list “fragrance” as an ingredient, rather than naming the specific chemicals involved, withholding information that could cause allergic reactions and other health effects, a report released Wednesday asserts.

Looking at 17 popular perfumes, colognes and body sprays, the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics found an average of 14 unlisted ingredients in each of these products. By law, companies are not required to list chemicals used to create their fragrance.

“We as consumers have a right to know what we’re putting on our bodies,” says Sean Gray, senior analyst with the Environmental Working Group, which conducted the study for The Campaign for Safe Cosmetics. “Some of those hidden chemicals you don’t know about have human health impacts.”

The fragrances tested contained, on average, 10 chemical sensitizers, which can trigger reactions such as asthma, wheezing, headaches and contact dermatitis when they are breathed in absorbed into the skin.

John Bailey, chief scientist for the Personal Care Products Council, the Washington-based industry group, said the chemicals in question were sensitive only at very high doses.

“I think they’re misusing information at several levels,” Bailey says. “They report the so-called secret materials in products and they don’t report the levels. As an analytical chemist, you have two jobs. One is to identify chemicals. And the other is to identify how much is there. The quantity is critical.”

In Europe, 26 substances must be listed on the label even if they are part of the fragrance. Of those 26 substances, the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics study found 22 in the products it tested.

In the report, the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics called on Congress to rewrite the Federal Fair Packaging and Labeling Act of 1973 to require all the chemicals in a perfume or cologne to be listed.

But Bailey says that’s unrealistic. He says there wouldn’t be enough room on labels to include all the ingredients used to create a fragrance and that the information would be meaningless to consumers.

Bailey says the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and other agencies have the authority now to restrict or ban any substance used in cosmetics consider unsafe.

In the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics study, 12 of the 17 fragrances tested also contained diethyl phthalate, known as DEP.

Phthalates are generally classified as endocrine disruptors, meaning they can interfere with the chemical signaling system in the body, and some studies suggest they may interfere with the reproductive development of boys in the womb.

But Bailey says DEP is not a health concern in the amount it is used in cosmetics, and DEP deemed safe by American and European regulators.

“Fragrances have been used for centuries. We know a lot about the composition. There’s really a basic tool chest of materials being used,” Bailey says. “It’s not as though we don’t have any experience with them.”

In December, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency named eight phthalates to a new “chemicals of concern” list, citing adverse effects on the reproductive system in male laboratory animals and human studies showing associations between phthalates and health problems in people. DEP was not among those phthalates cited by the EPA.

The Campaign for Safe Cosmetics is a coalition of non-profit groups, including the Environmental Working Group, Alliance for Health Tomorrow, the Breast Cancer Fund, Commonweal, Friends of the Earth and Women’s Voices for the Earth.

WebMD

Does Perfume Have Hidden Health Risks?

'Secret Chemicals' May Be Harmful, Group Says; Industry Official Says Products Are Safe

<http://www.webmd.com/allergies/news/20100512/does-perfume-have-hidden-health-risks>

By [Kathleen Doheny](#)
WebMD Health News

Reviewed by [Laura J. Martin, MD](#)

May 12, 2010 -- That fragrance you wear, perhaps named after a celebrity, may make you feel sexy and irresistible, but chances are the label isn't telling you everything that's in it, according to a new report.

And that could spell trouble, says Jane Houlihan, co-author of the new report, issued by The Campaign for Safe Cosmetics in partnership with the Environmental Working Group (EWG). Some chemicals found in fragrances may be hazardous to your health, she says, yet makers of popular colognes, perfumes, and body sprays often don't disclose all the ingredients found in their products.

"The fragrance mixture itself can be comprised of dozens, even hundreds, of individual chemicals, and those don't have to be listed on the label," says Houlihan, senior vice president for research for EWG.

The report, "Not So Sexy: The Health Risks of Secret Chemicals in Fragrance," includes test results on 17 fragranced products. On average, Houlihan says, the researchers found 14 "secret" chemicals not listed on the label, and she says some of them have been linked to allergic reactions or hormone disruption.

Not surprisingly, industry officials took strong exception to the new report. The new findings, according to John Bailey, PhD, chief scientist for the Personal Care Products Council, is "another example of a group releasing information without providing all of the information that's relevant. There may be a bit of selective science going on here."

Inside the Fragrance Report

Houlihan and colleagues selected various popular fragrances, including colognes and body sprays marketed to both men and women, to see what fragrance chemicals they included. "We started with these 17 products," Houlihan says, "sent them off to the lab to see what other chemicals are in these products."

The list of products sent to an independent laboratory to be analyzed included:

- American Eagle Seventy Seven
- Chanel Coco Mademoiselle

- Britney Spears Curious
- Giorgio Armani Acqua Di Gio
- Old Spice After Hours Body Spray
- Quicksilver
- Calvin Klein Eternity for Men
- Bath & Body Works Japanese Cherry Blossom
- Calvin Klein Eternity (for women)
- Halle by Halle Berry
- Hannah Montana Secret Celebrity
- Victoria's Secret Dream Angels Heavenly
- Abercrombie & Fitch Fierce
- Jennifer Lopez J. Lo Glow
- AXE Body Spray For Men-Shock
- Clinique Happy Perfume Spray
- Dolce & Gabbana Light Blue

The tests revealed that 38 "secret" chemicals were in the 17 name-brand products, with an average of 14 chemicals per product. American Eagle Seventy Seven had the most unlisted ingredients, with 24; Dolce & Gabbana Light Blue had the least, with seven.

When they looked closer, Houlihan and colleagues found an average of 10 chemicals linked with allergic reactions such as [headaches](#), wheezing, or [asthma](#). The researchers found 12 different chemicals they describe as potentially hormone-disrupting, such as benzyl benzoate, diethyl phthalate, and tonalide.

Of the 91 ingredients found, the researchers report, only 19 have been reviewed by the Cosmetic Ingredient Review, which is industry-funded, and only 27 have been assessed by the International Fragrance Association and the Research Institute for Fragrance Materials, which have developed voluntary standards for chemicals used in fragrance products.

According to the report, the fragrance industry has 3,100 stock chemical ingredients to choose from.

The FDA and Fragrances

Fragrances in products are covered under the federal Fair Packaging and Labeling Act of 1973.

The act does require companies to list the ingredients of cosmetics, but allows them to simply lump fragrance chemicals as "fragrances."

Fragrance Labels: What Should Be Done?

"The chemicals that are in fragrances should be listed," Houlihan says.

"People should be able to know what they are being exposed to," she says. "Having a simple ingredient list on the label would help people avoid what they are allergic to."

Fragrances and 'Hidden' Chemicals: Industry Response

The researchers are "cherry picking their science," Bailey says. For instance, he tells WebMD, "diethyl phthalate [which the researchers found in 12 of the 17 products and consider a hormone disrupter] has been extensively studied by a number of authoritative bodies and found not to be a problem."

Bailey contends that the industry does a good job of policing itself when it comes to fragrance. For instance, he says, the International Fragrance Association has set recommendations regarding the use of some chemicals in fragrances.

Allergic reactions are bound to happen with some of the products for some people, he says. If a product is found to cause widespread allergic problems, Bailey says, the FDA can step in and notify the manufacturer.

As for the suggestion to list all chemicals used for fragrance on the label, Bailey says "It's virtually impossible" because of the complexity and the number of chemicals involved.

The New York Times

(Version of article scheduled to appear May 13)

SKIN DEEP

Beauty Spots

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/13/fashion/13skinside.html?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter

FRAGRANCE TESTA A new report found 38 undisclosed ingredients in 17 name-brand fragrances. Laboratory tests of the fragrances were commissioned by the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics and analyzed by the Environmental Working Group. The report's authors cautioned that perfumes and colognes contain secret ingredients that are "not assessed for safety." The full report can be found at ewg.org/notsosexy.

STUBBLE ON Two new books about beards help men navigate the treacherous waters between laughingstock and Jake Gyllenhaal. "The Little Book of Beards," by O.S. Belgie, catalogs 40 looks with an emphasis on what each says about its wearer. "The Bearded Gentleman," by Allan Peterkin and Nick Burns, suggests age-appropriate styles, advising, "Never apologize, never explain."

FISH AT OUR FEET One of the lesser-known casualties of the budget crisis in Albany? A bill to ban fish pedicures, in which small carp nibble dead skin off people's feet. The procedure, which is illegal in several states, has been criticized as unsanitary (among other things), though it still has its fans.

Last fall, State Senator Jeffrey D. Klein, Democrat of the Bronx, held a press conference in front of a salon in Queens that offered fish pedicures and introduced a bill to abolish the procedure. But with the budget so late, fish pedicures have become a "low priority, back burner" issue, said Abby Ross, Mr. Klein's spokeswoman. "Right now the senator is focused on getting a budget passed."

Drug Store News

Personal Care Products Council's chief scientist responds to fragrance safety report

<http://drugstorenews.com/story.aspx?id=139549&menuid=795>

By Antoinette Alexander

WASHINGTON (May12) A new report by activist group Campaign for Safe Cosmetics alleging that a number of popular brand-name perfumes and teen body sprays have "secret" chemicals that could be harmful to consumers is "erroneous" and "does a disservice to consumers," stated John Bailey, chief scientist of the Personal Care Products Council, in response to the claim.

The report, titled "Not So Sexy: The Health Risks of Secret Chemicals in Fragrance," was released on May 12 by the U.S.-based Campaign for Safe Cosmetics and the Environmental Working Group.

An analysis of 17 fragranced products conducted at an independent laboratory allegedly found that, according to the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics, they contained "a dozen or more secret chemicals not listed on labels, multiple chemicals that can trigger allergic reactions or disrupt hormones, and many substances that have not been assessed for safety by the cosmetics industry's self-policing review panels."

Responding to the report, Bailey stated: "The validity of the report is seriously undermined by its failure to include quantitative measurements of the 'secret' ingredients it purported to find. Such measurements are a fundamental element of toxicological risk assessments. Without them, it is impossible to make valid judgments about potential risks.

"The report also erroneously alleges that many of the materials 'revealed' in their testing have not been assessed for safety. In fact, most of the ingredients have been the subject of a safety assessment by one or more authoritative bodies.

"Usage standards for fragrance are set based on the recommendations of a scientific panel of toxicologists, dermatologists, pathologists and environmental scientists that is overseen by the Research Institute for Fragrance Materials, the research arm of the International Fragrance Association. The RIFM database contains a significant volume of information on fragrance materials," Bailey concluded.

With regard to the allegations of sensitization from fragrance ingredients, Bailey said that it has long been known that some people are sensitive to some natural or manmade materials in the environment. He also explained that because fragrance components are made up of so many substances it is literally impossible to list them all on a product label. Given this, virtually all countries, including the European Union,

allow fragrance ingredients to be declared on a label under the general term of "fragrance."

With regard to the allegations in the report that some fragrance ingredients could be hormone disruptors, Bailey stated that this is "based on incomplete assessments of available scientific data about potential hormone affects and do not take into account actual exposure in cosmetic products. The studies relied upon in the allegations are not directly relevant to human exposure, and many of laboratory tests that have been done were completed under conditions that are not directly applicable to the use of these ingredients in cosmetic products. In some substances, the hormone effects measured are tens of thousands of times less than what would be expected to cause effects in humans. The weight of evidence in hormone disruption science today does not support the conclusions presented in this report."

Cosmetics Design

Trade association hits back at 'secret chemicals in fragrance' report

<http://www.cosmeticsdesign.com/Formulation-Science/Trade-association-hits-back-at-secret-chemicals-in-fragrance-report>

US-based trade association, the Personal Care Products Council, has slammed a report that claims many popular, brand name fragrances contain 'secret' ingredients that may be harmful to consumers.

'Not So Sexy: The Health Risks of Secret Chemicals in Fragrance' was released by the US-based Campaign for Safe Cosmetics, the Environmental Group and the Canada-based Environmental Defence.

According to the campaign, an independent lab test carried out on 17 products showed them to contain hormone-disrupting and sensitizing chemicals as well as chemicals not listed on product labels.

'Misrepresenting the science on fragrance ingredients'

Chief Scientist at the Personal Care Products Council, John Bailey, issued a statement denouncing the report, claiming it 'grossly misrepresents the science on fragrance ingredients and presents a distorted picture of how they are regulated and labeled'.

Bailey also stated that the report does a disservice to consumers looking for accurate and reliable information and advice about the products they purchase.

Clandestine compounds

According to the report, on average, 14 'clandestine compounds' (those not listed on product labels) were found in the fragrances tested.

However, as fragrance components are made up of several substances, said Bailey, it is impossible to list them on a product label. Furthermore, a full list would be meaningless to consumers, he added.

The vast majority of countries, including those in the EU, allow fragrance ingredients to be declared under the general term of 'fragrance' on product labels.

Bailey also said that failure to include quantitative measurements of these secret ingredients 'seriously undermined' the validity of the report.

"Such measurements are a fundamental element of toxicological risk assessments. Without them, it is impossible to make valid judgments about potential risks," he stated.

Sensitizers and hormone-disruptors

The report alleged that the fragrances contained some sensitizing chemicals linked to allergic reactions and hormone-disrupting chemicals linked to negative health effects.

Bailey said that while some substances used in fragrance may be identified as sensitizing agents, manufacturers formulate in such a way that decreases the risk of sensitization and allergic reactions.

"Many of these substances have been used for decades, and much is known about them. The actual occurrence of sensitization in the marketplace is quite low," he said.

Bailey also questioned allegations about the use of hormone-disrupting chemicals, saying these are 'based on incomplete assessment of available scientific data [...] and don't take into account actual exposure in cosmetics products.'

He sought to reassure consumers about the contents of such products, saying: "*cosmetics ingredients are carefully selected for safety and suitability for their specific applications, and consumers can be confident in the safety of their products.*"

AOL News

Study: Top Perfumes Have Hazardous Chemicals

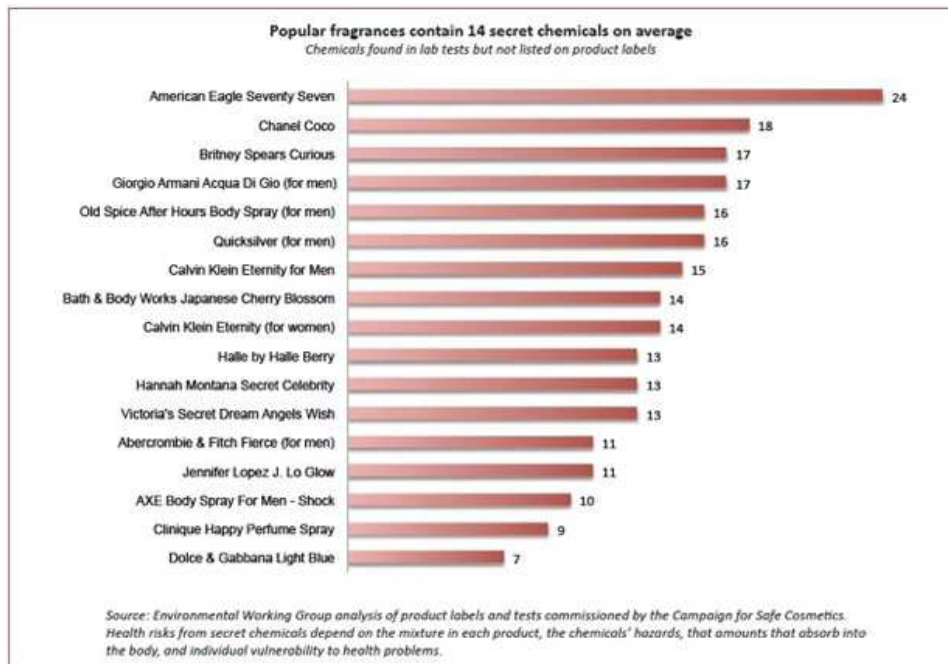
<http://www.aolnews.com/health/article/top-perfumes-contain-hazardous-secret-chemicals-report-finds/19473592>

(May 12) -- A gaping loophole in a 37-year-old federal law allows makers of perfumes, colognes and body sprays to conceal the chemicals that comprise the fragrances -- and some of those unidentified odor creators may be harmful to public health, two advocacy groups say.

In preparing their 43-page study, the [Campaign for Safe Cosmetics](#) and the [Environmental Working Group](#) commissioned laboratory analysis of 17 big-selling fragrance products. Those tests showed the products together contained 38 secret chemicals.

The findings were released under the heading "[Not So Sexy: The Health Risk of Secret Chemicals in Fragrances](#)," accompanied by a cover photograph showing an attractive couple apparently reacting to the effect of a seductive scent.

Leading the list with the most unidentified ingredients is American Eagle Seventy Seven with 24. Chanel Coco has 18, and Britney Spears Curious and Giorgio Armani Acqua Di Gio have 17, according to the report.



As the researchers worked through the selected fragrances, the pattern continued. "Every product we tested contains a mixture of secret chemical compounds not listed on the labels," Jane Houlihan, senior vice president for research for EWG, told AOL News.

Those unlisted compounds, she continued, "included 10 sensitizing chemicals that can trigger allergic reactions, four hormone disrupters in each product and a dozen chemicals not tested for safety by government or the fragrance industry itself."

Failing to name the chemicals in a fragrance is legal under the Federal Fair Packaging and Labeling Act of 1973. Though that law requires companies to list cosmetics ingredients on product labels, it explicitly exempts requiring breaking out the specific components of a perfume or cologne. Instead, when a consumer reads the ingredients of those products, she finds only the generic category of "fragrances."

"By taking advantage of this loophole, the cosmetics industry has kept the public in the dark about the ingredients in fragrances, even those that present potential health risks," Houlihan says.

The federal government appears equally uninformed. Along with the strictures established by the 1973 law, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration lacks the authority, and apparently the desire, to require manufacturers to test cosmetics, including fragranced products, for safety before they are sold to consumers.

In a February interview, senior FDA officials told AOL News that Congress has prevented the agency from regulating cosmetics.

The last line of defense for public health would be the industry's own trade research groups -- the International Fragrance Association or the Research Institute for Fragrance Materials. But the "Not So Sexy" researchers say few of the unlisted compounds they found have been evaluated by the safety review panels of the two organizations. Both bodies were asked for their reaction to the report, but have yet to reply.

On average, the products the researchers tested contained 14 secret chemicals not listed on the label. The clandestine compounds include some with troubling hazardous properties or a propensity to accumulate in human tissues. The researchers say these include diethyl phthalate, a chemical found in 97 percent of Americans and linked to sperm damage in human epidemiological studies; musk ketone, a synthetic fragrance ingredient that concentrates in human fat tissue and breast milk; and food additives whose safety in perfumes has not been

assessed.

Under U.S. law, the term "fragrance" is defined as a combination of chemicals that gives each perfume or cologne its distinct scent. Fragrance ingredients may be produced by chemical synthesis or derived from petroleum or natural raw materials.

According to EWG analysis, the fragrance industry has published safety assessments for only 34 percent of the unlabeled ingredients.

Some of the chemicals that are disclosed on the labels of the products in this report also raise safety concerns, the researchers concluded. They include ultraviolet-protector chemicals associated with hormone disruption and two dozen chemical sensitizers that can trigger allergic reactions that can in turn cause headaches, wheezing, infant diarrhea and vomiting, reduced pulmonary function, asthma and airway irritation, and contact dermatitis.

When a perfume is sprayed or applied to the body, the chemicals it contains can be inhaled and absorbed through the skin. "As a result, the bodies of most Americans are polluted with multiple cosmetics ingredients. This pollution begins in the womb and continues through life," the researchers say.

The report also cautions that the potential hazards from unidentified fragrances extend beyond products explicitly purchased to smell better.

"Numerous other products used daily, such as shampoos, lotions, bath products, cleaning sprays, air fresheners, and laundry and dish-washing detergents," it said, "also contain strongly scented, volatile ingredients that are hidden behind the word 'fragrance.' "

Along with listing those that fail to identify all their ingredients, the study also the names roughly 200 brands that tell consumers everything that's in their products.

Filed under: [Nation, Health](#)

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Happy Magazine online

The Council Blasts EWG's 'Report' on Fragrances

http://www.happi.com/news/2010/05/12/the_council_blasts_ewg%2526rsquo%3Bs_%2526lsquo%3Breport%2526rsquo%3B_on_fragrances

Alleges perfumes contain 'secret' ingredients that cause harm.

According to the Personal Care Product Council's chief scientist John Bailey, a new report alleging that many popular perfumes contain "secret" ingredients that could cause harm to consumers "grossly misrepresents the science on fragrance ingredients and presents a distorted picture of how they are regulated and labeled."

The report titled, 'Not So Sexy: The Health Risks of Secret Chemicals in Fragrance,' and released by the U.S.-based Campaign for Safe Cosmetics and the Environmental Working Group, and the Canadian-based Environmental Defence, does a disservice to consumers looking for full and accurate information and trustworthy advice about the products they purchase."

"The validity of the report is seriously undermined by its failure to include quantitative measurements of the 'secret' ingredients it purported to find. Such measurements are a fundamental element of toxicological risk assessments. Without them, it is impossible to make valid judgments about potential risks," Bailey added.

According to The Council, the report also erroneously alleges that many of the materials "revealed" in their testing have not been assessed for safety, while in fact, most of the ingredients have been the subject of a safety assessment by one or more authoritative bodies.

Usage standards for fragrance are set based on the recommendations of a scientific panel of toxicologists, dermatologists, pathologists and environmental scientists that is overseen by the Research Institute for Fragrance Materials (RIFM), the research arm of the International Fragrance Association (IFRA). The RIFM database contains a significant volume of information on fragrance materials, said The Council in a press statement released late on May 11.

"With respect to allegations in the report of sensitization from fragrance ingredients, it has long been known that a certain percentage of individuals in the population are sensitive to some natural or manmade materials in the environment. In fact, some of the strongest sensitizers are derived from natural sources such as peanuts," Bailey said.

"Fragrance materials and other cosmetic ingredients are tested for their potential to cause sensitization and allergic reactions. When these tests identify substances that may be sensitizing agents, manufacturers take the appropriate steps to formulate in a manner that minimizes the chances of sensitization and allergic reaction. Many of these substances have been used for decades, and much is known about them. The actual occurrence of sensitization in the marketplace is quite low."

"For individuals who are extremely sensitive, products are labeled either with the individual ingredients in them or under the general heading of 'fragrance,'" Bailey continued. "This information helps consumers to select products that are safe and appropriate for them to use. Individuals who experience allergic reactions should consult their physician.

According to Bailey, the assertions in the report that some fragrance ingredients could be hormone disruptors are based on incomplete assessments of available scientific data about potential hormone effects and do not take into account actual exposure in cosmetic products.

"The studies relied upon in the allegations are not directly relevant to human exposure, and many of the laboratory tests that have been done were completed under conditions that are not directly applicable to the use of these ingredients in cosmetic products. In some substances the hormone effects measured are tens of thousands of times less than what would be expected to cause effects in humans. The weight of evidence in hormone disruption science today does not support the conclusions presented in this report," he noted.

"Although the report alleges deficiencies in U.S. labeling laws for fragrances, virtually all countries, including the European Union, allow fragrance ingredients to be declared on product labels under the general term of 'fragrance.' This is because fragrance components are made up of many substances, and it's simply impossible to list them all on a product label. In addition, the listing of all fragrance materials would be meaningless to all but expert chemists. The practical approach chosen by regulatory authorities has been to require specific declarations or restrictions only when there is a clearly defined need."

"This action was taken by Europe for a small number of materials that are known sensitizers. In fact, these restrictions had already been identified by industry-sponsored safety review programs and are an integral part of code of conduct developed by IFRA," Bailey noted.

Perfumer & Flavorist

Industry Responds to "Secret Chemicals" Report

<http://www.perfumerflavorist.com/fragrance/regulatory/93575234.html>

A new [report](#) commissioned by the [Campaign for Safe Cosmetics](#) and co-created with [Commonweal](#), [Environmental Working Group](#), [Breast Cancer Fund](#), [Women's Voices for the Earth](#) and Anne Steinemann (University of Washington), has been released. "Not So Sexy—The Health Risks of Secret Chemicals in Fragrance" suggests links between certain fragrance materials and adverse health effects.

The Fragrance Foundation has crafted a response in concert with the Research Institute for Fragrance Materials, the International Fragrance Association and the Personal Care Products Council.

The full statement:

Fragrance Safety is No Secret

The Campaign for Safe Cosmetics has published a report (May 12, 2010) entitled "Not So Sexy — The Health Risks of Secret Chemicals in Fragrance". Unfortunately, this document is self-published, rather than being submitted for publication in a peer reviewed scientific journal in which the merit of the statements being made could be judged. The latter is the accepted practice within the scientific community, and insures that innuendo and unsupported claims cannot be passed off as scientific fact.

This report acknowledges, but without specific citation, that the fragrance industry has published a listing of more than 3,000 fragrance ingredients that are currently being used in all forms of consumer products – not just perfumes, colognes and body sprays. The Research Institute for Fragrance Materials (RIFM) is responsible for all aspects of the safety of these materials. Based on RIFM's scientific findings, the stewardship of these fragrance materials is administered by the International Fragrance Association (IFRA), which maintains a strict Code of Practice for fragrance manufacturers. These groups have been in existence for more than 40 years, and maintain a database of many thousands of individual safety tests that have been conducted in support of the continued safe use of these 3,000+ ingredients.

So, in fact, there is nothing 'secret' about the ingredients being used in fragrances. Any consumer, or special interest group such as The Campaign for Safe Cosmetics, can access this list at www.ifraorg.org.

The fragrance industry has repeatedly offered to engage interest groups in a dialogue about the industry's safety program. In fact, industry representatives have even sat cordially across the table with several of the groups which contributed to this report. We are, therefore, shocked to see the continuation of inaccuracies perpetuated in this document concerning our safety program and its effectiveness.

Scare mongering through the use of ‘suggested’ or ‘potential’ associations between fragrance materials and various toxicities is deplorable, particularly when present in a document that purports to be scientific. Facts are not ‘secret’, and good science is very objective; an objective review of the facts confirms that an industry safety program that has been in place for more than four decades provides assurance of safe use of the fragrances contained in consumer products.

KGO-TV (ABC), San Francisco

Study tests safety of ingredients in perfume

<http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/consumer&id=7437104>

A new study finds your perfume could be putting you at risk. Many brand-name perfumes and colognes contain chemicals not listed on labels.

Some of the ingredients haven't been tested for safety by the beauty industry's review panels.

California's Campaign for Safe Cosmetics and a Toronto team tested 17 fragrances. On average, each contained 14 secret compounds.

Some had more -- Including American Eagle 77, Britney Spears Curious, Giorgio Armani Acqua Di Gio, Old Spice and Calvin Klein Eternity.

Some industry leaders say the amounts are so miniscule, and can't hurt you.

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CANADIAN COVERAGE

CTV News

Avis Favaro on the chemicals

<http://watch.ctv.ca/news/health#clip301096>

LINK TO VIDEO CLIP ABOVE

A new study claims that a number of popular perfumes contain 'secret chemicals' that have been linked to sperm damage and hormone disruption.

Montreal Gazette

'Secret' chemicals in perfumes could pose health hazards

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/health/Secret+chemicals+perfumes+could+pose+health+hazards/3017532/story.html#ixzz0njyg6lSg>

Sarah Schmidt/CanWest News Service

Also ran in the Ottawa Citizen; Calgary Times; Times Colonist (British Columbia); Vancouver Province; Vancouver Sun

OTTAWA — Many brand-name perfumes and colognes contain undisclosed chemicals not listed on the labels and substances that haven't been assessed for safety by the beauty industry's own review panels, according to a new study that suggests there could be a health cost to smelling nice.

The Toronto-based Environmental Defence teamed up with California's Campaign for Safe Cosmetics to test 17 fragrances.

Of 91 ingredients identified by the laboratory tests or product labels, the study said that 19 have been reviewed by the Cosmetics Ingredient Review and 27 have been assessed by the International Fragrance Association and the Research Institute for Fragrance Materials, which develop voluntary standards for chemicals used in fragrance.

The test results also show 38 "secret" chemicals not listed on labels in all 17 products assessed.

On average, each product contained 14 undisclosed compounds, with a number of the fragrances — including American Eagle Seventy Seven, Coco Mademoiselle Channel, Britney Spears Curious, Giorgio Armani Acqua Di Gio, Old Spice After Hours body spray, Quicksilver and Calvin Klein Eternity for men — all exceeding the average.

The study chalks this up to a "loophole" in government regulations.

Under the Canadian cosmetic regulations, which took effect in 2004, all intentional non-fragrance ingredients must be listed on cosmetics and personal-care products, but companies are allowed to lump intentional fragrance ingredients under the generic term "parfum."

But the study notes that some of these undisclosed chemicals are associated with hormone disruption and allergic reactions.

Meanwhile, 10 of the undisclosed chemicals lack any public-toxicity information in published scientific literature, according to the report, which cross-referenced each chemical with the U.S. government's "PubMed" database of published academic research.

And at least six of these undisclosed compounds have three or fewer published toxicity studies, or have been deemed by a government agency to be "completely lacking toxicity data for critical health risks of concern."

"People using perfume, cologne, body spray and other scented cosmetics like lotion and aftershave are unknowingly exposed to chemicals that may increase their risk for certain health problems," the report concludes.

A total of 12 different hormone-disrupting chemicals were found in the products — with an average of four in each product.

Halle by Halle Berry, Quicksilver and Glow by JLo each contained seven different hormone disrupting chemicals, including six that mimic estrogen and one chemical associated with thyroid effects, the report states.

Rick Smith, executive director of Environmental Defence, said the report shows the "system is broken and is putting Canadians' health at risk."

"Yet, the fix is simple," he said "Canadians need to know what's in the perfume they're buying, be assured the perfumes are safety-tested and know that the most harmful chemicals are banned."

Darren Praznik, president of the Canadian Cosmetics, Toiletry and Fragrance Association, says consumers can rest assured that all the products are safe and pose no health risk.

"These ingredients have a long history, they've been looked at regularly, they go through risk profiles, they are assessed, if required studied in greater depth to ensure that products are safe," he said.

Praznik said the report ignores the science of risk assessment, which looks at both the hazard and exposure levels. Most of the undeclared chemicals cited in the report were found in such small levels that they're considered "non-quantifiable," said Praznik.

"If something is a hazard for which are you not getting an exposure, there is no risk."

Praznik also said there's a "very practical reason" for the fragrance labelling rules. Most perfumes have hundreds of components, many of which are added in such "infinitesimally small" amounts as to make any potential risk "not scientifically relevant."

Other products included in the study include: Bath & Body Works Japanese Cherry Blossom, Calvin Klein Eternity for women, Hannah Montana Secret Celebrity, Victoria's Secret Dream Angels Heavenly, Abercrombie & Fitch Fierce for men, AXE Body Spray for Men — Shock, Clinique Happy and Dolce & Gabbana Light Blue.

The Globe & Mail

Perfumes contain hidden harmful chemicals, environmental groups say

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/health/perfumes-contain-hidden-harmful-chemicals-environmental-groups-say/article1565965/>

Carly Weeks

Several perfumes sold across Canada contain undeclared chemicals that have not been thoroughly tested for safety and may have serious health implications, a report by two environmental advocacy group says.

The report, released Tuesday, says that despite a growing desire by Canadian consumers to avoid harmful substances, the ability to know what is in personal-care products is limited by a product-labelling exemption.

The two groups commissioned independent laboratory testing that identified several potentially harmful chemicals in perfume products including Acqua Di Gio by Giorgio Armani, and American Eagle's Seventy Seven.

According to the report, both contain linal, an allergen that may prompt estrogen-like effects in the body, and benzyl salicylate, an allergen, as well as many other chemicals.

"Anything in your house that smells like a rain forest or a strawberry patch or a pine tree will have these chemicals in them," added Rick Smith, executive director of Environmental Defence, which released the report along with California-based Campaign for Safe Cosmetics.

The report should be a wake-up call to Canadians about the vast number of potentially harmful chemicals used to make fragrances, as well as other personal care and household products, Dr. Smith said.

It should also highlight major drawbacks of Canadian laws that are designed to protect consumers from toxic substances, he added.

Under federal regulations, companies have to list ingredients on cosmetic labels, but they are not required to list the ingredients used to make fragrances.

Environmental Defence says this is because fragrances are considered trade secrets, but the Canadian Cosmetic, Toiletry and Fragrance Association said it's because listing all the ingredients, especially those used at extremely low concentrations, would take too much space.

Health Canada doesn't test all chemicals used in fragrances and other personal care products, and doesn't require manufacturers to do comprehensive safety testing on all of the ingredients they use.

Health Canada does maintain a "hotlist" of cosmetic ingredients that are restricted and prohibited. If companies use these ingredients, Health Canada may ask them to take action, such as removing the ingredient or reducing its concentration to acceptable levels.

The government's approach has been criticized by Environmental Defence and other organizations, such as the David Suzuki Foundation, as too lenient on the cosmetics industry and not doing enough to protect consumers.

The Canadian Cancer Society has been advocating for better product labelling to help people understand the ingredients used and whether they contain carcinogens.

But the CCTFA said the vast majority of ingredients used in personal care products go through a risk assessment and are subject to scrutiny from independent labs.

"The reality is that ingredients that go into fragrances are checked to ensure they are safe and that manufacturers are not including secret ingredients, or any other kind that will put people at risk," said Darren Praznik, president and CEO of the association.

In order to determine what chemicals are in many common fragrance products, Environmental Defence and Campaign for Safe Cosmetics commissioned independent laboratory testing of 17 fragrances sold in Canada and the United States.

The testing showed that each fragrance contains, on average, 14 chemicals that are not listed on the product label. In total, nearly 40 undisclosed chemicals were found in the 17 products tested. The products contained a total of 91 chemicals, some identified on labels and some not. Of those, only 19 have ever been reviewed by the Cosmetic Ingredient Review, a review body of the cosmetics industry. .

"You can be the most savvy consumer in the world on the lookout for these hazardous chemicals on ingredient lists and you're never going to find them," said Dr. Smith, a zoologist by training.

Many of the chemicals identified in the report can trigger allergic reactions or act as hormone disruptors.

For instance, Quicksilver fragrance for men and Seventy Seven contain diethyl phthalate, which is suspected of disrupting endocrine function and potentially leading to reproductive or developmental problems.

Dolce & Gabbana's Light Blue fragrance contains several chemicals including butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT), a preservative and stabilizer that has been linked to adverse effects on the thyroid and is a possible carcinogen.

Mr. Praznik said the report is alarmist and fails to take into account that most of the supposedly toxic ingred

“There’s a very extensive structure and system in place to ensure the safety of those products,” he said. “This report ... really adds nothing new that I think should give anyone cause for alarm.”

But Dr. Smith said he wants Canadian law changed so that dangerous substances are banned and companies are required to disclose all ingredients in their products. In the meantime, he said, consumers can help minimize their exposure to these chemicals by cutting back on the products they use that contain fragrances.

Winnipeg Free Press

Report calls for tougher laws on listing, testing of perfume ingredients

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/life/health/report-calls-for-tougher-laws-on-listing-testing-of-perfume-ingredients-93575604.html>

Sheryl Ubelacker/The Canadian Press

Also ran in Kamloops Daily News (British Columbia)

TORONTO - Many people won't leave home without dabbing on a little cologne, spritzing themselves with a body spray or slapping on aftershave, but consumer-safety groups say there are more to these fragrances than meets the eye.

In a report released Wednesday, the Canadian and U.S. organizations say testing shows many of the most popular brands of fragrances contain potentially hazardous ingredients that are not listed on their labels.

Canada's Environmental Defence and the U.S.-based Campaign for Safe Cosmetics had an independent California lab test 17 products — four bought in Canada and 13 in the United States — for 40 chemicals.

The almost \$9,000 analysis found that 38 of the chemicals were not disclosed on labelling, with an average of 14 undeclared chemicals per product. American Eagle Seventy Seven, one of the fragrances purchased in Canada, contained 24 of the chemicals, nearly twice the average found in other scented products.

Rick Smith, executive director of Environmental Defence, said cosmetic manufacturers are allowed to list only certain ingredients because of an "outrageous loophole" in Canadian law.

"If you are a company making a fragrant product, all you have to do is stick the (word) 'fragrance' on the label and then you're exempt from any further disclosure of exactly what chemicals, what ingredients, have gone into making that fragrance," Smith said.

"It's deemed to be a trade secret."

The report did not call for the banning of any of the products tested. However, it wants Ottawa to revamp regulations governing fragrances and other personal-care products to require that all ingredients be listed, that all products be safety-tested and any harmful chemicals banned.

"Very clearly we need to push government to do better," said Smith. "At the very least, people have a right to know what's in the things they're buying."

"You shouldn't have to have a degree in chemical engineering to shop for toiletries."

Health Canada is reviewing the report, but a spokesman said all cosmetics must meet the requirements of a number of regulations, including the Food and Drugs Act, which states: "No person shall sell any cosmetic that has in or on it any substance that may cause injury to the health of the user."

"Health Canada continually reviews scientific studies, monitors the marketplace for adverse reactions and takes appropriate corrective action when required to protect the health and safety of Canadians," Stephane Shank said by email.

Darren Praznik, president and CEO of the Canadian Cosmetic, Toiletry and Fragrance Association, said federal regulations do not require manufacturers to include ingredients on labels that are detectable but "not quantified" because the amounts used are infinitesimally small.

Praznik also argued against the notion that federal laws regarding cosmetics are too lax, adding that the association representing the country's personal-care product industry will provide a copy of the report to Health Canada to see "if there's anything new in it."

"What's interesting to note on the Canadian version (of the report), they clearly said none of the ingredients they've identified are on the (Canadian Cosmetic Ingredient) Hotlist of restricted or prohibited ingredients maintained by Health Canada," he said.

"They are trying to create a public concern that science will not support."

The report, entitled Not So Sexy: The Health Risks of Secret Chemicals in Fragrance, found that fragrances tested contained an average of 10 chemicals known to be "sensitizers" that can trigger allergic reactions such as asthma and headaches.

All of those ingredients were listed on the labels. Giorgio Armani Acqua Di Gio contained 19 sensitizing chemicals, the most of any product tested, says the report, which will be posted on both groups' websites.

The lab also detected 12 different potentially hormone-disrupting chemicals, with an average of four in each product. The report says three each contained seven different chemicals with the potential to disrupt the hormone system: Halle by Halle Berry, Quicksilver and Jennifer Lopez J. Lo Glow.

Six of these chemicals mimic the hormone estrogen, and the seventh is associated with thyroid effects. Some of these potential hormone disrupters were listed on labels; others were undisclosed.

"The problem is not one chemical or two chemicals," said Smith. "The problem is on a daily basis, all of us — men, women, kids — are marinating in this sea of synthetic chemicals that we've created."

Potentially toxic ingredients are incorporated not only in fragrances, but also in scented soaps, shampoos and conditioners, deodorants, air fresheners and a multitude of other smell-good personal-care products, he said.

"And it's the cumulative effect of all of these low-level exposures on a daily basis that's adding up."

Stacy Malkan, co-founder of Campaign for Safe Cosmetics, said the U.S. law governing personal-care products has been on the books since 1938 and also needs to be revamped.

"A lot of the chemicals we found in these products are hazardous and in addition we found many chemicals that have never been studied," she said from Washington.

"People are unknowingly being exposed to many hazardous chemicals that are hidden in their favourite perfume, including multiple allergens and hormone-disrupters and many secret chemicals that aren't listed on labels."

Malkan and Smith both advise consumers to cut out scented products if possible or limit the number of different products used daily.

That's especially important for children and adolescents whose developing bodies and brains make them more vulnerable to the effects of chemicals.

"The best advice we can give," said Malkan, "is to avoid or reduce exposure to fragrances, especially if you have small children or if you're pregnant or are planning to become pregnant."

TheSpec.com

Perfume ingredients make non scents

<http://www.thespec.com/Health/article/767921>

Noor Javed/TorStar News Service

They make you smell like an exotic flower, mask the most offending smells, or simply give you a fresher feeling. But popular perfumes and body sprays could also be dousing you with small amounts of chemicals that trigger allergic reactions and disrupt hormones, according to a study released Wednesday.

Toronto-based Environmental Defence and Campaign for Safe Cosmetics in the U.S tested 17 popular fragrance products and found they contained a total of 38 secret chemicals not listed on the label. On average, each product had 14 of these chemicals.

The problem, says Rick Smith, executive director of Environmental Defence, is that cosmetic companies can lump ingredients together under the generic term “parfum” or “fragrances.”

“This is a really worrisome loophole in Canadian law where a company can claim that their fragrance compilation is a trade secret, and then they are not obligated to disclose to anyone what’s in that fragrance,” said Smith.

The report found that on average, the products contained 10 chemicals known to cause allergies and four with “the potential to disrupt the hormone system.” Many of these chemicals are classified as allergens by the European Union, said Smith.

Findings like this concern Sherry Adams, who runs a store in Toronto, and struggles with multiple chemical sensitivities.

Adams, who suffers headaches, nausea and skin reactions from strong scents, believes Health Canada has a duty to require more transparency from perfume companies.

Currently, perfumes are allowed on the market before manufacturers disclose the ingredient list to Health Canada. If a product is deemed unsafe, the government can issue warning letters, public advisories or recall orders. It can’t ban a product altogether. A review of the law governing cosmetics is expected soon.

Michael Patton, spokesman for the Canadian Cosmetic, Toiletry and Fragrance Association, said the labelling is transparent enough.

He said the amount of secret chemicals is so minimal, they pose no health risk that would require labelling.

If there was a risk, fragrance companies would work with Health Canada to ensure products are safe, he said.

Canoe.ca

Best-selling perfumes contain untested chemicals: Report

<http://cnews.canoe.ca/CNEWS/Politics/2010/05/12/13915091.html>

Christina Spencer, Parliamentary Bureau

Story also ran in the Toronto Sun,

<http://www.torontosun.com/news/canada/2010/05/12/13915101.html>; *Orillia Packet & Times (Ottawa)*

OTTAWA — Some best-selling perfumes in Canada and the United States contain synthetic chemicals that have never been safety tested, and others that use hormone-disrupting substances or compounds that aggravate allergies, according to lab tests for the Canadian organization Environmental Defence and several public health groups.

The products include celebrity scents such as Jennifer Lopez J. Lo Glo and Halle by Halle Berry. American Eagle Seventy Seven, sold in Canada, was found to contain 24 chemicals not identified on the label, the highest number among the products studied.

“By industry’s own admission, the vast majority of these synthetic chemicals have never been safety tested,” said Rick Smith, executive director of Toronto-based Environmental Defence.

“Yet people are lathering up with this stuff, spritzing with this stuff, moisturizing with this stuff everyday.”

The results of the testing were to be released Wednesday in a 44-page report sponsored by several non-profit groups in Canada and the U.S.

The report found an average of 14 chemicals per product that were not identified on the label — mainly because of regulations that allow manufacturers to simply list them as “fragrance” or “parfum.” There were, on average, 10 “sensitizing” chemicals per product, which could trigger allergic reactions. And the tests found an average of four hormone-disrupting chemicals in each product.

The federal government is reviewing Canadian laws on cosmetics, but Smith said one of the first things it should do is change product-labelling laws.

“Even the most savvy, knowledgeable of consumers cannot tell what is in the product that they’re buying. This is a huge loophole in Canadian law,” he said.

He also called on the federal government to ban the most dangerous chemicals. Health Canada said Tuesday it was reviewing the report “and takes appropriate corrective action when required to protect the health and safety of Canadians.”

According to the report, four products sold in Canada — American Eagle Seventy Seven, Acqua di Gio by Giorgio Armani, Light Blue by Dolce & Gabbana, and Quiksilver (for men) were “among the highest scoring in terms of number of total chemicals, secret chemicals and sensitizing chemicals.”

CBC News

Perfumes' chemical safety unknown: report

<http://www.cbc.ca/consumer/story/2010/05/11/fragrance-perfume-chemicals.html>

Staff, with reports from The Canadian Press

Top-selling fragrances contain chemicals that can trigger allergic reactions or disrupt hormones but are not listed on labels, according to a new report calling for changes in federal regulations.

The report, released Wednesday by Environmental Defence in Canada and the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics in the U.S., assessed 17 fragrances bought in both countries that were tested by an independent laboratory in California. They included Britney Spears' Curious, Calvin Klein Eternity, Abercrombie & Fitch Fierce and Old Spice body spray.

The tests found a dozen or more chemicals not listed on labels, multiple chemicals that can trigger allergic reactions or disrupt hormones, and substances that have not been assessed for safety by the beauty industry's self-policing review panels, the groups said.

"Clearly, the system is broken and is putting Canadians' health at risk," Rick Smith, the executive director of Environmental Defence, said in a release.

"Yet, the fix is simple: Canadians need to know what's in the perfume they're buying, be assured the perfumes are safety-tested, and know that the most harmful chemicals are banned. It's up to our federal government to make sure that laws concerning these products are protecting Canadians' health."

The findings in the report included:

- * An average of 10 sensitizing chemicals that can trigger allergic reactions such as headaches, wheezing, asthma, infant diarrhea and vomiting and reduced pulmonary function were found in each product.

- * An average of four hormone-disrupting chemicals were found in each product. The chemicals may mimic the hormone estrogen.

Ingredient list 'meaningless'

Of the 91 ingredients identified in the study by lab tests or product labels, 19 have been reviewed by the industry-funded Cosmetic Ingredient Review.

An industry spokesman said more detailed labelling was uncalled for. "The assertions in the report that some fragrance ingredients could be hormone disruptors are based on incomplete assessments of available scientific data about potential hormone effects and do not take into account actual exposure in cosmetic products," said Mike Patton, a spokesman for the Canadian Cosmetic, Toiletry and Fragrance Association.

"Fragrance components are made up of many substances, and it's simply impossible to list them all on a product label. In addition, the listing of all fragrance materials would be meaningless to all but expert chemists. The practical approach chosen by regulatory authorities has been to require specific declarations or restrictions only when there is a clearly defined need," Patton added in an email to CBC News.

Health Canada is reviewing the report. A spokesman said all cosmetics must meet the requirements of a number of regulations, including the Food and Drugs Act, which states: "No person shall sell any cosmetic that has in or on it any substance that may cause injury to the health of the user."

"Health Canada continually reviews scientific studies, monitors the marketplace for adverse reactions and takes appropriate corrective action when required to protect the health and safety of Canadians," Stephane Shank said in an email to The Canadian Press.

CTV.ca

Perfumes filled with unknown chemicals, group alleges

<http://edmonton.ctv.ca/servlet/an/local/CTVNews/20100511/perfume-chemicals-100511/20100511/?hub=EdmontonHome>

CTV News Staff

A prominent environmental group says perfume makers stink when it comes to divulging the potentially dangerous chemicals in their products.

Environmental Defence, along with the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics, commissioned a study of perfumes sold in Canada. The group says the study shows that perfumes often contain a dozen of what it calls "secret chemicals" not listed on labels -- chemicals that can trigger allergic reactions or disrupt hormones.

The group tested 17 name-brand perfumes colognes and "body sprays" for men and women:

- * Giorgio Armani Acqua Di Gio
- * Jennifer Lopez J. Lo Glow
- * Calvin Klein Eternity (for women)
- * Bath & Body Works Japanese Cherry Blossom
- * Britney Spears Curious
- * Calvin Klein Eternity (for men)
- * Quiksilver (for men)
- * Victoria's Secret Dream Angels Heavenly
- * Coco Mademoiselle Chanel
- * Clinique Happy
- * Abercrombie & Fitch Fierce
- * American Eagle Seventy Seven
- * Hannah Montana Secret Celebrity
- * Dolce & Gabbana Light Blue

- * Old Spice After Hours Body Spray
- * AXE Bodyspray For Men - Shock
- * Halle by Halle Berry

All of them contained secret chemicals not listed on the label. On average, they contained 14 chemicals, some are which have been linked to estrogen disruption, sperm production disruption and even cancer, the group says.

According to the study, Calvin Klein Eternity perfume for women, for example, contained 14 unlisted chemicals. Giorgio Armani Aqua Di Gio for men had 17 chemicals, while American Eagle 77 spray contained 24 unlisted chemicals.

The study found the perfumes also contained an average of 10 "sensitizing" chemicals, which are chemicals that can trigger allergic reactions, such as nausea, headaches, wheezing, and vomiting.

The questionable chemicals include:

- * Octinoxate
- * Oxybenzone
- * Benzophenone
- * Diethyl phthalate (DEP)
- * Butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT)
- * Galaxoide
- * Tonalide
- * Musk ketone
- * Benzyl salicylate
- * Benzyl benzoate
- * Butylphenyl methylpropional

The report says that galaxolide and tonalide -- two synthetic musks linked to toxicity to the endocrine system -- were found in 16 of the 17 perfumes. A recent cord-blood study by the

Environmental Working Group found those two chemicals inside the bodies of most babies tested.

Twelve of the 17 products in this study were listed as containing DEP, a chemical found in 97 per cent of Americans that is linked to abnormal development of reproductive organs in baby boys and sperm damage in adult men.

Jane Houlihan, senior vice president for research at the Environmental Working Group, says these chemicals easily find their way into our bodies.

"Fragrance chemicals are inhaled or absorbed through the skin, and many of them end up inside people's bodies, including pregnant women and newborn babies," she said.

Environmental Defence's Rick Smith says none of the chemicals are specifically labelled, because of a regulatory loophole that allows companies to use the word "fragrance" on their label to protect the fragrances as trade secrets.

"All you have to do is put the word 'fragrance' on your ingredient list and you can shovel dozens of chemicals into that one word," he says.

"There's no way for people to know what's in their favourite fragrances without sending these products to a laboratory. As a parent, I find that unacceptable," Smith added in a news release.

The group also contends that of the 91 ingredients identified in the study (either by lab tests or product labels), only 19 had been reviewed by the industry-funded Cosmetic Ingredient Review, and only 27 have been assessed by the International Fragrance Association (IFRA) and the Research Institute for Fragrance Materials (RIFM), which develop voluntary standards for chemicals used in fragrance.

Darren Praznik, of the Canadian Cosmetic, Toiletry and Fragrance Association, says the report is flawed.

"None of these ingredients are secret. They are well known," he told CTV News. "They have gone through intensive scrutiny within the industry's suppliers and regulators, like Health Canada to make sure consumers are not put at risk when they are used as intended."

Praznik says most of the products identified in the report are either on the label or are present in infinitesimally small amounts.

"Industry and regulators put a great deal of effort, in fact, in ensuring that ingredients that go into personal care products and fragrances are in fact safe when used as intended," he said.

Environmental Defence say this study kicks off its new "Just Beautiful" campaign, aimed at making cosmetics and personal care products safer and their labels more clear. It comes as the federal government reviews Canada's laws governing cosmetics.

The group also plans to investigate what chemicals might be found in makeup, perfumes, lotions, shampoos and soaps that Canadian families use every day.

The group says their mission is to see better labelling of all chemicals in perfumes, cosmetics and sunscreens -- most of which contain artificial scents -- so that consumers can better decide which to use and which to avoid.