

# Greening of Consumer Products

an Allen Matkins  
market intelligence  
publication

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October 1, 2008

## **California law establishes chemical review**

*Mercury News - Sept 29*

California will begin reviewing potentially harmful chemicals used to make consumer products under a new state law, according to Mercury News. A bill signed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger sets up the state program. It could lead to an outright ban of chemicals in household items determined to have negative health effects. Schwarzenegger says consumers are alarmed about the health and environmental hazards many chemicals pose. The governor also signed a companion bill by Sen. Joe Simitian that sets up an online registry for consumers, businesses and workers about chemicals.

## **Chemical Industry to fight proposed Kid Safe Chemical Act**

*Politico.com - Sept 18*

A big part of the proposed Kid Safe Chemical Act would be the so-called "precautionary principle", which forces manufacturers to prove that a substance is safe, rather than regulators having to prove that it isn't. The American Chemistry Council opposes the precautionary principle: "Better safe than sorry is one thing, but then there is throwing the baby out with the bath water, too," said Marty Durbin of the ACC. The chemical industry lobby is gearing up to fend off a broad legislative overhaul that marks a significant shift in the way that chemicals are regulated in America.

## **International NGO ChemSec releases list of chemical substances companies should avoid**

*Cosmetic Design Europe - Sept 18*

International [NGO ChemSec](#) has released a list of chemical substances for which it feels companies should be searching for alternatives. The Substitute it Now (SIN) list was presented by ChemSec (the International Chemicals Secretariat) in Brussels and includes 267 chemicals that the group feels are of high concern. As part of the REACH legislation, the European Chemicals Agency ECHA is due to release a similar list of Substances of Very High Concern, however this list may contain as few as 12 substances. The list of 267 chemicals, which can be viewed via [ChemSec's website](#), was compiled in collaboration with nine consumer and environmental NGOs and a number of businesses.

## **Automakers increasingly reusing recycled materials**

*Detroit Free Press - Sept 21*

Automakers are increasingly incorporating recycled materials for car parts, according to The Detroit Free Press. Recycled steel and aluminum have long been used in vehicle structures, but with oil prices soaring, recycled plastics and fabric are gaining a more prominent role in vehicles in places such as the dashboard or on exterior parts.

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## **Tests show drug-tainted water in U.S. affects 46 million**

*The Associated Press - Sept 12*

At least 46 million Americans are affected by drinking water contaminated with trace amounts of pharmaceuticals -- higher than the 41 million mentioned in an Associated Press investigation, according to test results. Since the release of the AP report, agencies in metropolitan areas have tested their drinking water, resulting in 17 positive cases in cities including Reno, Nev., Savannah, Ga., and Huntsville, Ala.

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