



## Reduce Toxic Chemicals in Food Packaging

Protect our public health and environment by phasing out harmful chemicals.

***Mainers benefit when toxic chemicals are eliminated from our food packaging.***

### Maine children and families deserve healthy food that's not wrapped in toxic chemicals.

- So-called “brain drain” chemicals, PFAS and phthalates are entering our food supply. They pose significant health risks, particularly for pregnant women and children.
- These chemicals may end up in our food through processing and packaging. PFAS is found in packaging such as bakery bags and fast food wrappers. Phthalates enter our food supply through inks and adhesives as well as from food-handling gloves.
- Toxic chemicals may enter the environment and drinking water supply when packaging is composted or landfilled. PFAS contamination of drinking water is a growing concern nationally.
- Both phthalates and PFAS have been linked to interfering with normal brain development in children.
- PFAS increases the risk of some cancers, may lower a woman's chance of getting pregnant, and have been associated with liver problems and increased cholesterol levels.
- Phthalates are endocrine disruptors that change the way hormones work. Pregnant women, babies and toddlers are most at risk, and boys may suffer an increased risk of birth defects associated with testicular cancer, prostate cancer, or difficulty in fathering a child.

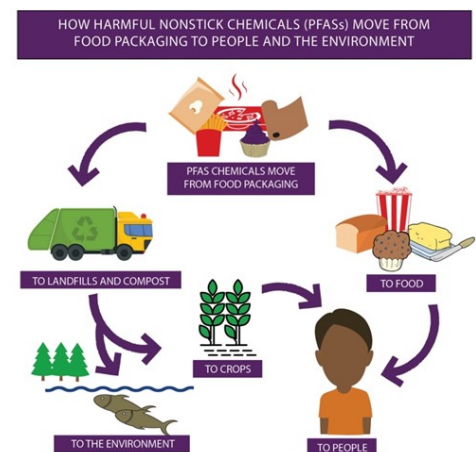


### Maine can join other states leading on food safety.

- Mainers take pride in our locally grown, organic food. Packaging shouldn't add harmful chemicals.
- The federal system on food safety is badly broken. Lack of federal oversight and leadership means states need to take the lead. Washington State has already passed a law to phase out PFAS in packaging.
- Alternative packaging is available, and the market is already changing. Major food manufacturers are taking voluntary steps to stop using these chemicals. Passing legislation will ensure food on our shelves is in safer packaging, holding all manufacturers to the same standard.

### The Safe Food Packaging Act will phase-out harmful chemicals from our food packaging.

- The bill updates the current toxics in packaging act to require manufacturers to phase-out PFAS and phthalates by 2022.
- The bill would also authorize the Department of Environmental Protection to name other priority chemicals in food packaging and require disclosure, alternatives assessment, or phase-out through administrative rule making.



## Support the Safe Food Packaging Act

For more information, contact Sarah Woodbury, Prevent Harm at 207-699-5791, [swoodbury@preventharm.org](mailto:swoodbury@preventharm.org)



## Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition

is a partnership of 34 environmental, conservation and public health organizations representing over 100,000 members who want to protect the good health, good jobs and quality of life that our environment provides.

***We are counting on Maine policymakers to take the important steps needed to make wise use of Maine's extraordinary environment so Maine people and Maine communities can thrive.***

Acadia Center	Maine People's Alliance
Appalachian Mountain Club	Maine Public Health Association
Atlantic Salmon Federation	Maine Rivers
Bicycle Coalition of Maine	Maine Wilderness Guides Organization
Conservation Law Foundation	Midcoast Conservancy
Environmental Health Strategy Center	Natural Resources Council of Maine
Environment Maine	Physicians for Social Responsibility, Maine Chapter
Friends of Casco Bay	RESTORE: The North Woods
Islesboro Island Trust	Sierra Club, Maine Chapter
Maine Association of Conservation Commissions	Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative
Maine Audubon	The Ocean Conservancy
Maine Center for Economic Policy	The Trust for Public Land
Maine Conservation Alliance	The Wilderness Society
Maine Council of Churches	Toxics Action Center
Maine Council of Trout Unlimited	Upstream
Maine Interfaith Power & Light	350 Maine
Maine Lakes Society	
Maine Organic Farmers & Gardeners Association	