

**The
Truth
About
Fragrance
Phthalates**

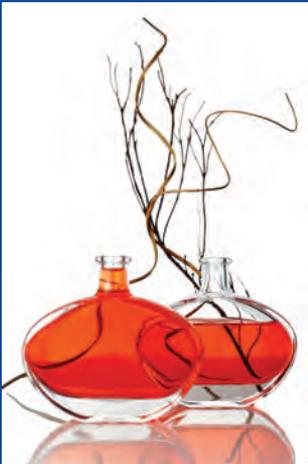


Not all phthalates are the same

Phthalates is a broad term that refers to a wide variety of compounds of differing chemical structure. Not all phthalates are the same; the chemical profiles differ significantly. One of the phthalates, diethyl phthalate or DEP, is commonly used in fragrances to help blend fragrance ingredients and as a fixative to make fragrances last longer.

Are phthalates used in fragrances safe?

Yes. Diethylphthalate (DEP) is safe for use in fragrances and is among the most thoroughly tested substances in the class of phthalates. DEP has been reviewed by numerous government bodies, e.g. European Union Scientific Committee on Consumer Products (SCCP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and consistently supported as safe for use at current levels. Most recently, in 2008 the U.S. Congress omitted DEP from a list of phthalates of concern.



The Cosmetic Ingredient Review (CIR) Expert Panel, which is comprised of physicians and scientists who have been publicly nominated by consumer, scientific and medical groups, government agencies and industry, after completing an extensive review of all the literature on DEP in 2002 and again in 2005, decided not to reopen the safety assessment of DEP and other phthalates. Based on the available information included in its peer reviewed literature report, the CIR Expert Panel concluded that DEP is safe for use in cosmetic products in the present practices of use and concentrations.

Most recently, in a review completed in March of this year by the European Commission's Scientific Committee on Consumer Products (SCCP), the SCCP reconfirmed that DEP is safe for use in cosmetics and represents no quantifiable risk for the consumer. The SCCP also found that none of the latest information on DEP would change its longstanding conclusion. The SCCP is the regulatory arm of the European Union comparable to the FDA.

Moreover, the Food and Drug Administration continues to evaluate available data on DEP and has not taken any action to restrict the use of DEP in fragrances.

How does the fragrance industry know their ingredients are safe?

The safety of fragrance ingredients is a top priority for the fragrance industry. Fragrance material suppliers take substantial and effective product stewardship measures to assure the safety of these products. New scientific data are constantly evaluated to ensure that the highest standards are applied to the creation of fragrances.



The principal means by which fragrance material producers and fragrance manufacturers address the safety of such materials is through the scientific work of the Research Institute for Fragrance Materials (RIFM). RIFM analyzes, evaluates and distributes scientific data, cooperates with official agencies and encourages safety standards for the use of fragrance ingredients.

RIFM's activities are reviewed by an independent Expert Panel, which provides strategic guidance, determines scientific study design and interprets test results for relevance to human health and environmental protection. Expert Panel members are renowned international scientific experts who are independent of the fragrance industry. The Expert Panel's conclusions are published in peer-reviewed scientific journals. These conclusions regarding safe use form the basis for global industry standards which are set by the International Fragrance Association (IFRA).

Resources

www.cir-safety.org Findings, Ingredients Safe as Used, page 3.
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Agency for Toxic

Substances and Disease Registry, Toxicological Profile for Diethyl Phthalate, June 1995.

World Health Organization (WHO), Report on Diethyl Phthalate Chemical Assessment, Document 52, Geneva, 2003.



European Commission SCHER (Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks) Opinion on Emission of Chemicals by Air Fresheners, January 27, 2006, http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/scher_opinions_en.htm.

European Commission's Scientific Committee on Consumer Products (SCCP) Opinion on Phthalates in Cosmetic Products, March 21, 2007, http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_sccp/docs/sccp_o_106.pdf.

Scientific Committee on Consumer Products and Non-Food Products Intended for Consumers, December 9, 2003, <http://ec.europa.eu/health>.

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