



# EPA's Safer Choice and Design for the Environment Programs

US EPA's Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Virtual Conference

September 21, 2022

# Outline



- Safer Choice program
- New Design for the Environment (DfE) Logo
- Partner of the Year
- Safer Choice Summit

# Safer Choice Background



- Verification by a federal government agency that products contain only safer chemical ingredients and that they:
  - Are safer for workers, families, pets, communities, and the environment
  - Meet verified performance standards
- Label facilitates rapid decision-making by consumers
- About 1,900 certified products
  - ~400 Fragrance-free



# Safer Choice Product Types



## ■ Household & Facility Cleaning

- All-Purpose Cleaners, Appliance Cleaners & Rinse Aids
- Automatic Dishwasher Products
- Carpet Cleaners & Floor Care Products
- Degreasers
- Dish Detergents & Soaps
- Granite/Stone/Wood/Leather Cleaners
- Kitchen/Countertop Cleaners
- Laundry Detergents, Fabric Softeners & Pre-Treatments
- Odor Removers
- Pet Care Products
- Toilet Bowl Cleaners
- Tub/Tile Cleaners
- Window/Glass Cleaners

## ■ Health & Beauty

- Hand Soaps

## ■ Automotive & Outdoor

- Aircraft Cleaning Products
- Athletic Field Paint
- Car Care Products
- Deicers
- Dust Control Products
- Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Maintenance
- Marine/Recreation Vehicle (RV) Cleaners
- Outdoor Furniture Cleaners
- Parts Washers

## ■ Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, & Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) Disinfectants

- Certified under DfE

# The Standard Behind the Safer Choice Label



*To be Safer Choice certified, products must:*

- Meet the Safer Choice Standard
  - Every chemical ingredient is reviewed for human health and environmental safety
  - Product level requirements include performance, packaging, and ingredient disclosure
- Be covered under a Partnership Agreement between the manufacturer and EPA
  - Renewed every 3 years
- Undergo annual audits

<http://www.epa.gov/saferchoice/standard>

# Safer Chemical Criteria



Every chemical is evaluated under relevant criteria

- **No *de minimis*** for added ingredients
- Impurities, residuals, preservatives, & stabilizers are all considered
- Every material, including fragrance material, must be disclosed and meet criteria

# Safer Chemical Criteria (cont.)



A Safer Choice toxicological profile for a single chemical ingredient includes available data on:

- Physical-chemical properties
- Toxicity information on required endpoints

Human Health Effects	Environmental Fate & Toxicity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Carcinogenicity</li><li>• Mutagenicity</li><li>• Reproductive &amp; developmental toxicity</li><li>• Acute toxicity</li><li>• Repeated dose toxicity</li><li>• Neurotoxicity</li><li>• Sensitization &amp; irritation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bioaccumulation</li><li>• Degradation products</li><li>• Eutrophication</li><li>• Aquatic toxicity</li></ul>

# Safer Chemical Ingredients List (SCIL)







[www.epa.gov/saferchoice/safer-ingredients](http://www.epa.gov/saferchoice/safer-ingredients)

- Living list of more than **1,000** safer chemicals that meet EPA's Safer Chemical Criteria
- Uses
  - Research whether proposed formulations might be eligible for Safer Choice
  - Sustainable chemistry measure for products not carrying the Safer Choice label
  - Highlight innovation and meet demand for safer chemicals



## Safer Chemical Ingredients List

- The listed chemicals are safer alternatives, grouped by their [functional-use class](#).†
- Chemicals are marked as a  [green circle](#),  [green half-circle](#),  [yellow triangle](#), or  [grey square](#).‡
- This list includes many of the chemicals evaluated through the Safer Choice Program. It does not include confidential chemicals. There may be chemicals not included in this list that are also safer.
- Some of the chemicals listed in these functional use classes may not be on the [TSCA inventory](#) and therefore may not be authorized/allowed for TSCA uses. Persons considering TSCA uses for these substances should engage in appropriate diligence to ascertain whether such use is authorized.

◆ Please Select: [All Functional Use Classes](#)

◆ or Select a Functional Use Class:

- [Antimicrobial Actives](#)
- [Chelating Agents](#)
- [Colorants](#)
- [Defoamers](#)
- [Emollients](#)
- [Enzymes and Enzyme Stabilizers](#)
- [Fragrances](#)
- [Oxidants and Oxidant Stabilizers](#)
- [Polymers](#)
- [Preservatives and Antioxidants](#)
- [Processing Aids and Additives](#)
- [Skin Conditioning Agents](#)
- [Solvents](#)
- [Specialized Industrial Chemicals](#)
- [Surfactants](#)
- [Uncategorized](#)

**Functional Use Classes**

◆ Search: Name  or CAS RN

**← Search by Name or CAS #**

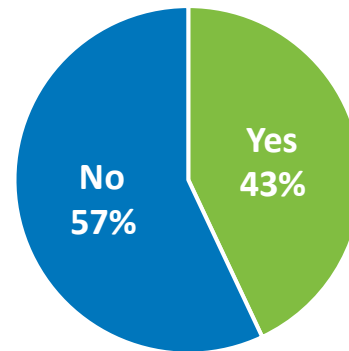
# Survey of Consumer Awareness



In a survey of 2,000+ adult United States residents in February 2020:

- 43% of consumers reported familiarity with the program.

Are you familiar with a labeling program implemented by EPA that enables consumers to select products...safer for people, families, and pets?



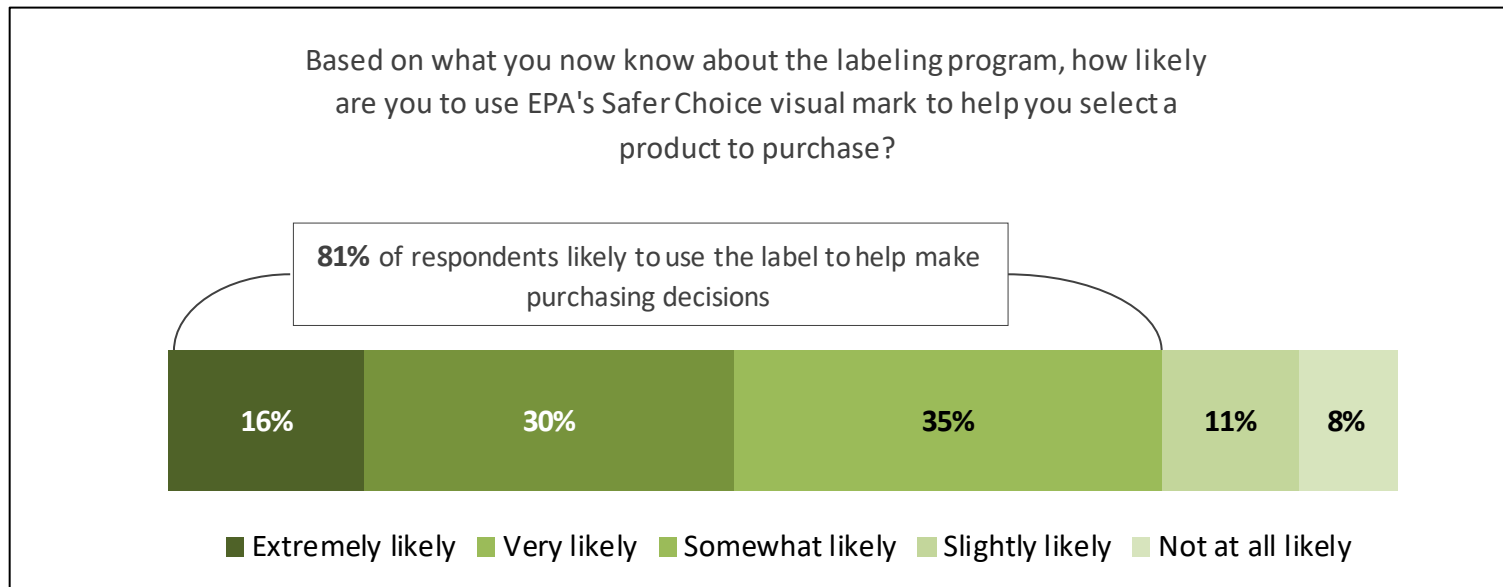
N=2,007

- 37% of consumers say they have seen the Safer Choice label on store shelves.

# Consumer Desire to use Safer Choice



- **81%** of consumers... responded that they would use the Safer Choice label to inform purchasing decisions.
  - **89%** of parents...
  - **87%** of millennials...



# Design for the Environment



- **Design for the Environment (DfE)** is a certification for *disinfectant products* that are low-concern for human health and the environment.
  - For antimicrobial products registered under FIFRA
- New DfE logo:



# DfE-Certified Disinfectants Overview



Office of  
Pollution  
Prevention &  
Toxics Review

*DfE Criteria*



Office of  
Pesticide  
Programs  
Review &  
Registration



DfE  
Certification



- Eight active ingredients currently allowed:
  - Citric acid
  - Hydrogen peroxide
  - L-Lactic acid
  - Ethanol
  - Isopropanol
  - Peroxyacetic acid
  - Sodium bisulfate
  - Chitosan

# DfE-Certified Products



- EPA has updated the list of DfE-certified products to be user-friendly and searchable: [www.epa.gov/pesticide-labels/dfe-certified-disinfectants](http://www.epa.gov/pesticide-labels/dfe-certified-disinfectants)
- **Over 50** sanitizers/disinfectants certified
- Product sectors include:
  - All-Purpose Cleaners
  - Toilet Bowl Cleaners
  - Tub/Tile Cleaners
  - Wipes
- For more information, see DfE [website](#)

# Partner of the Year (PoY) Awards



- Partner of the Year Awards will be held in Arlington, Virginia on November 1, 2022
- Emphasis on safer chemistry with added focus on environmental justice and climate change
- Five applicant categories
  - Formulator/Product Manufacturer
  - Innovator
  - Retailer
  - Purchaser/Distributor
  - Supporter
- Link to descriptions of last year's winners:  
<https://www.epa.gov/saferchoice/2021-safer-choice-partner-year-award-winners-profiles>



# Partner of the Year Award Winners





# Safer Choice Summit



- Safer Choice Summit – November 2 & 3, 2022
  - Interactive stakeholder engagement event focused on dialogue that can advance Safer Choice
  - Agenda informed by stakeholder input requested in advance
  - After the Summit, EPA will document action items and share priorities with stakeholders
  
- Potential topics and sessions:
  - Updates to the Standard
  - SCIL curation
  - Facility recognition
  - Safer products and environmental justice
  - Communications/Outreach

# Websites



- **Safer Choice home page:**  
<https://www.epa.gov/saferchoice>
- **Safer Choice home page en español:**  
<https://espanol.epa.gov/saferchoice>
- **Safer Choice-certified product listing:**  
<https://www.epa.gov/saferchoice/products>
- **Safer Choice Standard:**  
<https://www.epa.gov/saferchoice/safer-choice-standard>
- **Safer Chemical Ingredients List (SCIL):**  
<https://www.epa.gov/saferchoice/safer-ingredients>
- **DfE-certified disinfectants product listing:**  
<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-labels/dfe-certified-disinfectants>
- **Safer Choice Partner of the Year Application:**  
<https://www.epa.gov/saferchoice/safer-choice-partner-year-awards>

# Questions?



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