



SAFER CHOICE

Resources for Manufacturers

EPA's Safer Choice program offers these resources for manufacturers formulating products with safer chemical ingredients: the Safer Chemical Ingredients List (SCIL), access to Safer Choice expertise, and the Safer Choice label for qualifying products.

Why partner with Safer Choice?

- Safer Choice-labeled products are allowed to carry the label and are listed on EPA's website.
- Safer Choice is a respected verification of safer chemistry that you can use to communicate your leadership in innovation and product stewardship to purchasers and consumers.
- Safer Choice offers expertise in safer chemicals to complement your expertise in product formulation.

QUESTIONS?

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SAFER CHOICE LABEL

Only products that meet the Safer Choice Standard, which includes stringent human health and environmental criteria, are allowed to carry the Safer Choice label. For a product to qualify for the label, the EPA Safer Choice program evaluates:

- Each chemical in the formula for human health and environmental impacts; and
- Performance, packaging, and ingredient disclosure.

More information on the review: <http://www.epa.gov/saferchoice/resources-safer-choice-product-manufacturers>

HOW TO FIND SAFER INGREDIENTS

EPA's Safer Chemical Ingredients List is the primary list of chemical ingredients that can be used in Safer Choice-labeled products. The SCIL is publicly available and contains chemicals that meet the standards and safer chemical ingredient criteria of the Safer Choice program. The list is arranged by functional-use class to help product manufacturers identify safer chemical alternatives and is updated periodically to reflect new data and innovations in safer chemistry.ⁱ [More information on the SCIL: http://www.epa.gov/saferchoice/safer-ingredients](http://www.epa.gov/saferchoice/safer-ingredients)

GreenBlue's CleanGredients® is a list of market-ready chemicals that can be used to make Safer Choice-labeled products. In CleanGredients®, product manufacturers will find trade-name products, functional properties, and supplier contacts. Listed ingredients are pre-approved for use in Safer Choice-labeled products.ⁱⁱ For more information visit: www.cleangredients.org

How to Apply for the Safer Choice Label

STEP 1. Become Familiar with the Program

If you're a product manufacturer, you can read the [Safer Choice Standard](#), the [Criteria for Safer Chemical Ingredients](#), and the [Safer Choice Product-Class Criteria](#) to get a sense of the program's goals, framework, criteria, and to determine if your product may qualify to bear the Safer Choice label.

Consult [EPA's Safer Chemical Ingredients List \(SCIL\)](#) and [GreenBlue's CleanGredients®](#) or other sources to find safer chemical alternatives for your formulation.

STEP 2. Profiling of All Formulation Ingredients

Applicants for the Safer Choice label must fully disclose all ingredients in their product to Safer Choice and to a Safer Choice-qualified third-party profiler. For proprietary or trade-name ingredients, the third-party profiler will contact suppliers to get necessary information.

The third-party profiler compiles information for each chemical, including structure, physical-chemical properties, and human health and environmental toxicology from the literature, and models. This compilation of data is known as a profile.

STEP 3. Assessing Ingredients and Identifying Safer Alternatives

Following third-party profiling, Safer Choice:

- Assesses each ingredient in your formulation.
 - [Criteria for Safer Chemical Ingredients](#) for functional-class criteria (e.g., chelating agents, solvents, and fragrances)
 - [Master Criteria](#) for chemicals where specific functional-class criteria have not yet been defined
- Identifies areas for improvement, safer alternatives, or additional information needs.

STEP 4. Discussing the Safer Choice Assessment

After the product assessment, Safer Choice and the third-party profilers communicate to the applicant any formulation changes necessary to qualify for the label. For qualifying products, Safer Choice and the applicant discuss the elements of a partnership agreement.

STEP 5. Entering into Partnership

When the Safer Choice Standard has been met, Safer Choice and the applicant sign a partnership agreement. The agreement sets forth the basis, terms, and goals of the Safer Choice voluntary partnership between the applicant and EPA. The partnership agreement has a three year term and includes provisions on:

- Use of the Safer Choice label, environmental and human health benefits, and customer education;
- How the partner formulates the qualifying products; and
- Audits and ingredient communication.

ⁱ EPA knows that SCIL is only a partial listing of safer chemistry and encourages chemical manufacturers to submit additional chemicals for evaluation and public listing on SCIL.

ⁱⁱ CleanGredients is just one source of market-ready safer chemicals. Chemical manufacturers and others can point formulators to other sources of market ready safer chemicals.

Third-Party Profilers

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Resources

- [Safer Choice Standard](#)
- [Criteria for Safer Chemical Ingredients](#)
- [Master Criteria](#)
- [EPA's Safer Chemical Ingredients List](#)
- [GreenBlue's CleanGredients®](#)