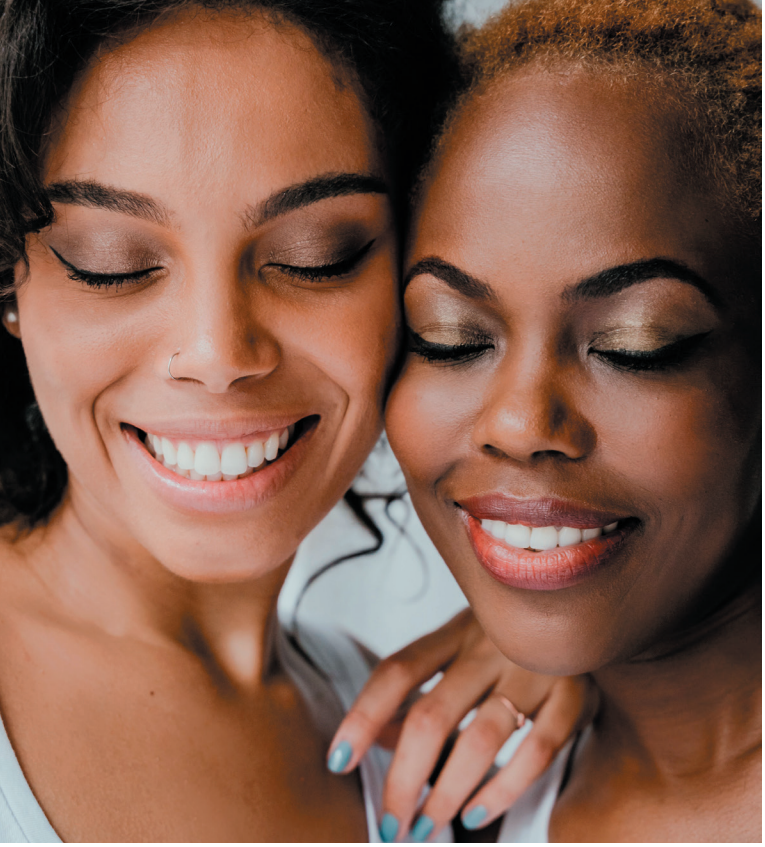
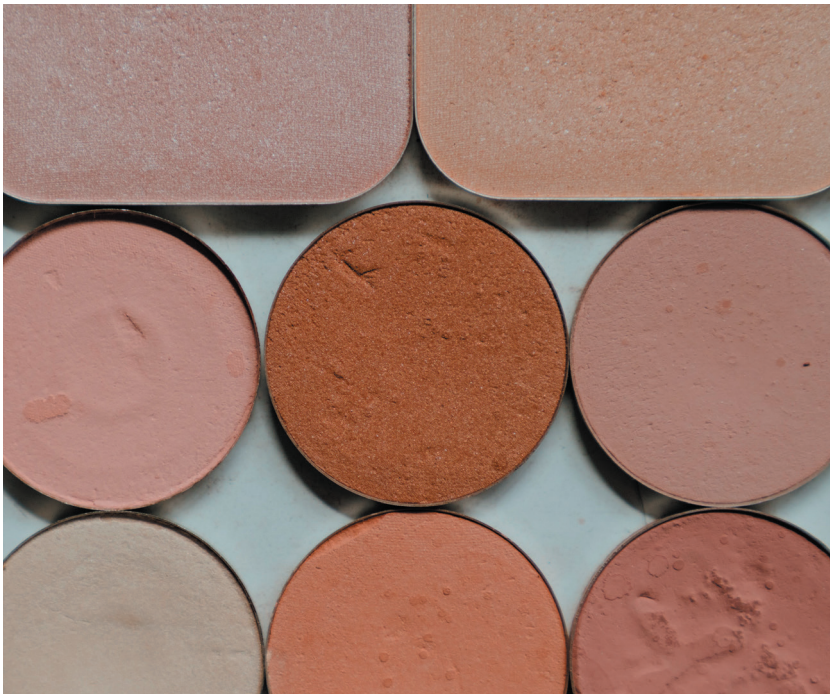


Clean Beauty Justice



Women of color face disproportionate exposure to toxic chemicals through beauty products.

THE FACTS

1.

Products in some hair relaxer kits marketed for Black children in the U.S. were found to contain five hormone disrupting chemicals banned by the European Union and regulated in California.

2.

In late 2022, Congress passed the Modernization of Cosmetics Regulation Act, the first major update to the Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act in 84 years. Recent efforts to prioritize beauty justice within federal oversight of cosmetic safety have yet to succeed.

3.

African Americans were found to have 1.8 times the level of diethyl phthalate in their bodies compared to white Americans. Diethyl phthalate is a common fragrance ingredient that can interfere with our hormone system.

4.

Over $85 billion are spent in the U.S. on beauty and personal care products annually.

5.

In one study, Dominican women who used skin-lightening creams had up to 30 times higher levels of mercury in their bodies. Mercury can harm the brain, kidneys and developing fetus.

6.

Some of the most toxic products, including hair straighteners and skin lighteners, are also symbols of an industry that has historically promoted Eurocentric beauty norms.

7.

Labels and claims like "chemical-free," "preservative-free," and "toxin-free" are not regulated in the United States and are misleading.

8.

Safer products can vary depending on where one lives. Access plays an important role in toxic chemical exposure disparities.

9.

84% of chemicals detected in a set of hair products marketed to Black women were not listed on the label.

10.

Beauty and personal care companies aren't required to disclose the ingredients that make up their trade secret formulations, like "fragrance" and "flavor." This means we don't always know what ingredients are found in products.

11.

Black and Dominican hairdressers were found to have higher levels of certain phthalates in their urine compared to women of color in the general population. This highlights that beauty service providers are overexposed to certain toxics.

1. Source: Helm JS, Nishioka M, Brody JG, Rudel RA, Dodson RE. Measurement of endocrine disrupting and asthma-associated chemicals in hair products used by Black women. Environ Res. 2018;165:448-458. doi:10.1016/j.envres.2018.03.030 **2**. Source: Breast Cancer Prevention Partners. (2021). Safer Beauty Bill Package. https://www.bcpp.org/resource/safer-beauty-bill-package-2021/ **3.** Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Fourth National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals. Available at: https://www.cdc.gov/exposurereport/index.html **4.** Source: Statista. (2022). Beauty & personal Care - United States. Statista Market Forecast. https://www.statista.com/outlook/cmo/beauty-personal-care/united-states **5.** Source: McKelvey W, Jeffery N, Clark N, Kass D, Parsons PJ. Population-based inorganic mercury biomonitoring and the identification of skin care products as a source of exposure in New York City. Environ Health Perspect. 2011;119(2):203-209. doi:10.1289/ehp.1002396 **6.** Source: Brown-West, Boma. (2021, July 13). Beauty has a toxic equity problem. It's time companies champion clean beauty justice. EDF+Business. https://business.edf.org/insights/beauty-has-a-toxic-equity-problem-its-time-companies-champion-clean-beauty-justice/ **7.** Source: Sasso, Alissa. (2021, March 25). What does "clean beauty" mean? New framework gives a path forward. EDF+Business. https://business.edf. org/insights/what-does-clean-beauty-mean-new-framework-gives-a-path-forward/ **8.** Source: Harvard Chan-NIEHS Center for Environmental Health. (2022, July 15). Environmental Racism in Personal Care Products. Environmental Racism in Greater Boston. https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/06cd9131264a454f86d9124faa3a90f3 **9.** Source: Helm JS, Nishioka M, Brody JG, Rudel RA, Dodson RE. Measurement of endocrine disrupting and asthma-associated chemicals in hair products used by Black women. Environ Res. 2018;165:448-458. doi:10.1016/j.envres.2018.03.030 **10.** Source: Cosmetic Labeling. 21 C.F.R. § 701. **11.** Source: Boyle MD, Kavi LK, Louis LM, et al. Occupational Exposures to Phthalates among Black and Latina U.S. Hairdressers Serving an Ethnically Diverse Clientele: A Pilot Study. Environ Sci Technol. 2021;55(12):8128-8138. doi:10.1021/acs.est.1c0042