



# Paint and Varnish Strippers Containing Methylene Chloride

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Environmental  
Protection Agency



**SAFER**  
CONSUMER  
PRODUCTS



Department of  
Toxic Substances  
Control



# Topics for Discussion

- Priority Product Definition
- Chemical of Concern: Why Methylene Chloride?
  - Hazard Considerations
  - Exposure Considerations
- Alternatives
- Market information



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## Proposed Definition

- *“Any product that contains methylene chloride and that may be marketed, sold, or described as a paint or varnish stripper designed to break down paint or varnish to facilitate its removal from a surface.”*
- *Includes but is not limited to products assigned to Brick 10002501 of the GPC.*



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## Proposed Exclusions

- *The definition will exclude all products in which the use of methylene chloride is prohibited by CARB under its Regulation for Reducing Emissions from Consumer Products (e.g., certain cleaners).*
- *The definition will also exclude things such as Paints, and Paint Additives.*



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# Why Methylene Chloride?

## Hazard Considerations

- Highly volatile, and acutely toxic
- Carcinogen
- Neurotoxin
- Can harm skin on contact
- Can damage eyes
- Sensitive subpopulations may include children, pregnant women, asthmatics, people with cardiovascular and/or respiratory disease, and workers.



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# Why Paint and Varnish Strippers?

## Exposure Considerations

- There have been deaths associated with use.
- Widely available to consumers in California.
- Methylene Chloride is highly volatile and its use in home can result in high concentrations in air.
- Air purifying respirators and commonly used gloves (e.g., latex) may not provide adequate protection.
- There appear to be alternatives?



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# Are There Alternatives?

- What are all the possible alternatives and who manufactures them?
- Are there any human health or environmental concerns related to possible alternatives?



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# Market Information

- How many businesses in California use paint or varnish strippers with methylene chloride, and who are they?
- Who manufactures paint stripper with methylene chloride?
- How much paint stripper with methylene chloride is made and/or sold in California, the U.S.?
- How many retailers sale methylene chloride paint stripper in California, who are they?



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# Discussion

We will begin the discussion.

We encourage written comments to be submitted by June 30, 2014.

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Thank you.



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## Topic I: Priority Product Description

1. Are the definition and terms clear and unambiguous as to which related products are included or excluded?
2. Are there GPC GSI brick codes that would be helpful in characterizing this product?
3. Are there other considerations for this Priority Product description that DTSC should know about?





## Topic 2: Chemical of Concern and Alternatives

1. Are there other Candidate Chemicals in this product that you suggest be considered?
2. Are there functionally acceptable alternatives to this Priority Product?
  - a. Are they commercially available?
  - b. Do they require the use of a replacement chemical?
  - c. Are there known hazards associated with these alternatives?
  - d. Are any potential replacement chemicals listed as Candidate Chemicals?





## Topic 3: Market Information

1. What is the market presence of the Priority Product?
2. How is the Priority Product marketed and/or sold?
3. What types of businesses are involved in the supply chain for manufacturing the Priority Product?

