

The Cosmetics Cop



[Paula Begoun](#)

Also known as The Cosmetics Cop, self published author of 18 books on the beauty industry, most notably [Don't Go to the Cosmetics Counter Without Me](#), [The Original Beauty Bible](#) and [Blue Eyeshadow Should Be Illegal](#). Her books on skin care, makeup, and critiquing practises of the beauty industry have gained international recognition. She is also creator and CEO of Paula's Choice skin care and cosmetics, and CEO of Beginning Press Publishing. She is known for her view that skin care and cosmetics should be based on ingredients that have been subjected to peer reviewed research.

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The truth about beauty products

News release from Campaign for Safe Cosmetics

USA TODAY Ad Names Cosmetics Companies That Won't Commit To Removing Toxic Chemicals From American Products

New York, Sept. 24 – A full-page advertisement in [USA Today](#) challenges cosmetics companies to come clean about whether they plan to remove toxic chemicals that are banned in the European Union from products sold on American shelves. The advertisement was placed by the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics, a coalition of US health and environmental groups.

This month, a law requiring cosmetics companies to stop using chemicals that are known or highly suspected of causing cancer, impaired fertility or birth defects – such as the phthalates DBP and DEHP used in some fragrance, hair spray and nail polish – entered into force in 25 EU countries. Cosmetics companies must remove the proscribed chemicals from products in Europe by next spring.

“Which company do you trust with your daughter?” asks the provocative advertisement, which depicts a young girl applying lipstick. The ad berates industry leaders L’Oreal, Revlon and Unilever for ignoring requests to remove toxic chemicals from US products.

“Today we are releasing correspondence from these companies showing that they have failed to respond in good faith to the legitimate concerns of American consumers,” said Jeanne Rizzo, executive director of the Breast Cancer Fund, a founding member of the coalition.

“People are putting chemicals on and into our bodies every

day, though use of shampoo, deodorant, face cream, hairspray and all of the other bottles, jars and cans that fill our bathrooms. Chemicals linked to cancer and birth defects do not belong in these products, period.”

According to the letters released today by the group:

L’Oreal failed to respond to letters requesting meetings and information about chemical usage, but the company did find the time to write a letter from their lawyers demanding that the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics stop using the slogan, “Because We’re Worth It!” – a play on L’Oreal’s “Because I’m Worth It!” tagline.

Revlon sent the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics a form letter from an industry trade association, implying phthalates are “perfectly safe” – a claim refuted by government panels in several countries.

Unilever failed to respond to repeated requests for dialogue, even though the company’s Korean subsidiary has already pledged to remove all phthalates from products sold in South Korea.

Product tests show that all three companies make products with phthalates – including Maybelline Express Finish Fast Dry Nail Enamel with DBP, Fire and Ice Cologne Spray with DEHP, and Aqua Net Professional Hair Spray with DBP. The companies also make similar products without phthalates.

Correspondence with all these companies is posted at <http://www.safecosmetics.org> – along with the USA Today ad and a list of 32 companies that have signed a pledge to make safer products available worldwide.