

Opinion

Fragrances

Carcinogenic Culprits

**“The
fragrance
industry is
unregulated
by law!”**

The article in The Minneapolis Star Tribune, “Bill to fund childhood cancer research moves to white house,” made me both sad and glad. <http://tinyurl.com/5wzmf>

I'm sad that exposures to environmental pollutants can predispose children to cancer so easily, yet glad that research may finally uncover what is so obvious that it has gone unrecognized; fragrance chemicals contain many of the same cancer-causing toxicants that are in tobacco smoke, and they are everywhere.

Fragrances are unavoidable and found in scented laundry products, for example, which emit volatile organic compounds into the air and people's lungs 24 hours a day.

How can this be allowed, one might ask?

The fragrance industry is unregulated and under trade secret laws the fragrance industry does not

have to disclose the ingredients in fragrance.

Most of today's fragrances are either petroleum, formaldehyde, or terpene-based despite industry claims that they are “organic,” “non toxic,” “safe” or “natural.”

They contain a host of other hazardous toxicants, including phthalates, known hormone disrupters, which are also in plastics. Yet plastics are easier to avoid than fragrances, which contaminate the air indiscriminately in classrooms, malls, stores, workplaces, and our homes.

Scented products even contain toxins that are on the EPA's Top Hazardous Waste list!

May skyrocketing cancer rates be a wake-up call to clean up fragrance chemicals in our homes, for the sake of children and people everywhere!

Fragrance-free laundry products can be purchased at most grocery stores at no additional cost.

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