

## Mary Hill

I have long had problems with perfumes and scents, whether in actual perfumes and colognes or when added to various products, such as detergents, fabric softeners, air "fresheners" or lotions. For many years, I could not walk down the laundry products aisle until Gain stopped coming in cardboard boxes, without holding my breath, which could be somewhat difficult.

At home, I use unscented everything. However, since Downy Unstoppables and Gain Flings have come into common use, my problem is now vastly exacerbated. I cannot be in the home of someone who uses them, I cannot be in a car with someone who is wearing clothing laundered with them, I cannot sit outside on my deck when the neighbors are running their dryers, I cannot be downwind outside from anyone who is wearing clothing laundered using them, I cannot accept anything that has been stored in their home if they use these products. When my grandchildren come to visit, even washing their clothes does not remove the offending chemicals.

My doctor has diagnosed me with chemical-induced asthma. My throat burns, I fill with phlegm, and begin having a difficult time breathing. I liken it to breathing in ammonia fumes. I have spoken to people, such as my stepson, who was unaware that use of these products was what was causing his family to have problems until I mentioned it. Once they stopped using them, their problems were mitigated. I am hoping that something can be done to alleviate the problems these products emit.