

Salonvironment

Thank you for Washington's leadership banning cancer-causing chemicals in personal care products and cosmetics.

Salonvironment strongly supports the Department of Ecology's draft rule to ban ALL formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. This rule is a critical step in making products used on our skin, in our hair, and that get flushed down the drain safer.

Formaldehyde can cause cancer, harm brain function, increase the risk of asthma, and irritate eyes and skin. It can also impact fish. These chemicals have no place in the products we use on our bodies every day.

As a licensed cosmetologist, I have worked around chemicals for over 13 years. The salon I worked at had a standing rule that we could only do certain chemical services on specific days, so they wouldn't be done around women who were pregnant. I've watched my coworkers slowly stop using certain products because they started to become allergic or had their hands become severely irritated (from products such as shampoo). I even had a coworker who had to retire early because she became silently ill (with no known cause for over a year) and eventually let go. Her doctor figured out it was because of her consistent exposure to various chemical treatments. I have personally felt ill just from working around certain chemical services. I love my career, as do most of the beauty professionals I know. It is disheartening to not be sure if we will cause our clients to get sick, how long I can stay in the industry, and if I can even get good health insurance - as hair professionals are usually not provided with affordable and strong healthcare options.

Specifically, I support:

The ban on the list of 28 formaldehyde releasers that will take effect on January 1, 2027;

The definition of intentionally added, which will ensure ALL formaldehyde releasers added to the final product, the manufacturing of the product, or is an ingredient in the final product will be covered; and,

The strong enforcement provisions that clearly state there will be an assumption that formaldehyde or a restricted formaldehyde releaser, or both were intentionally added if formaldehyde is found during sampling.

Please finalize this draft rule that bans ALL formaldehyde releasers and ensures strong enforcement.

Thank you!