



ALAMEDA COUNTY | Community Development Agency

HEALTHY HOMES DEPARTMENT

Including the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program



INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

May 27, 2020

Revised September 29, 2020

Methylene Chloride Paint Removers, Other Consumer Products Banned by EPA for consumer sale, effective Nov. 22, 2019.

Due to the risk of harm from methylene chloride, the EPA has banned the retail sale of products containing methylene chloride such as paint strippers and hobby materials and is encouraging consumers to stop using and to safely dispose of methylene chloride containing paint strippers or bathtub refinishing products.

Methylene chloride is volatile, highly toxic and dangerous. Fumes, especially in enclosed spaces, can quickly cause dizziness, loss of hearing, vision impairment, fainting and death. Direct contact with methylene chloride can cause moderate to severe irritation of the skin.

EPA determined methylene chloride created an unreasonable risk to consumers, including with short-term exposure. EPA encourages everyone to stop using any products already obtained and suggests proper disposal of any products found at home.

For proper disposal of strippers and other products containing methylene chloride, residents should contact the Alameda County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program:

<http://www.stopwaste.org/at-home/household-hazardous-waste>

For more information on EPA's decision:

<https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/final-rule-regulation-methylene-chloride-paint-and>

The EPA's scope of risk document with information about products containing methylene chloride:

https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-06/documents/mecl_scope_06-22-17.pdf

N-Methylpyrrolidone (NMP) has been used as an alternative to methylene chloride but is now undergoing risk evaluation by the EPA. More information can be found at:

<https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/risk-management-n-methylpyrrolidone-nmp>

On Methylene Chloride Risk Management:

<https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/risk-management-methylene-chloride>