Keeping It Clean with Chemistry

Chemistry is at the heart of the cleaning products that keep our homes, schools, healthcare facilities and other places of business cleaner, safer, and more comfortable. The U.S. is a leader in cleaning chemistries, producing a quarter of the world's cleaning products. Cleaning products account for nearly

of U.S. chemical

manufacturing.

The \$60 billion U.S. cleaning products

industry supports

66,000

jobs and plays a vital role in public health and economic growth. The U.S. is a net exporter of cleaning products, contributing

to the national trade balance in 2024.

The average U.S. household uses and benefits from approximately



worth of cleaning products annually.





Chemistry drives the innovation behind safer, more effective cleaning products used in homes, schools, and hospitals. That's why we need a regulatory framework that supports American chemistry, fosters innovation and ensures safety.

Congress can help by making targeted improvements to the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), the EPA's primary authority for regulating chemicals.

Fixing TSCA benefits everyone by fostering innovation, protecting public health, and strengthening America's competitive edge.



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The Chemistry of Clean

There are thousands of cleaning products available in the U.S., each formulated for a particular purpose, whether to clean grease off a casserole dish, make an office bathroom sparkle, or disinfect surfaces in a doctor's office. These products are supported by a vast portfolio of chemistries. Here are a few key categories of chemicals used to make cleaning products more effective:

- Abrasives are small particles of a hard material used to scour dirt from a surface.
- Disinfectants & Antimicrobials are used in kitchens, bathrooms and other places to prevent the dangerous spread of disease and keep harmful pathogens out of our food.
- Enzymes are biological materials that break down fats and proteins that cause stains and odors.
- Foam-boosting agents help produce foams which increase the coverage and contact time of surface- active ingredients.
- Solvents are cleaning chemicals that break up (or dissolve) oil and grease. They're used in a variety of cleaning products including all-purpose cleaners, rug cleaners, drain cleaners, spot removers, etc.
- **Plastic resins** are widely used in containers, lids, and dispensing mechanisms (i.e., pumps, spray nozzles, etc.).
- Water softeners boost the efficacy of surfactants by neutralizing minerals in tap water (including calcium and magnesium).