



# HSIA

halogenated  
solvents  
industry  
alliance, inc.

# SOLVENTS NEWS YOU CAN USE

---

SECOND QUARTER 2018

CONTACT: [FGraul@hsia.org](mailto:FGraul@hsia.org)

### **THREE RETAILERS ANNOUNCE PLANS TO STOP SALES OF METHYLENE CHLORIDE- BASED PAINT STRIPPERS BY YEAR END**

This month, three retailers – Lowe’s, Sherwin Williams, and Home Depot -- announced that they would stop sales of methylene chloride-based paint strippers in their stores by the end of 2018. This action comes after Safer Chemicals Healthy Families and the National Resources Defense Council communicated with the companies’ CEOs. HSIA believes there is a need for the continued use of methylene chloride-based paint strippers. When used as directed, they are the best products for efficient and effective paint removal. These paint strippers have been safely used by customers for more than 60 years.

Methylene chloride-based paint strippers were developed decades ago in response to the fire and explosion risks posed by alternatives. It would be unfortunate if now methylene chloride-based paint strippers are replaced by substitutes that have issues with flammability, increased toxicity and efficacy.

HSIA supports a ban on the use of methylene chloride-based paint strippers for bathtub refinishing due to severely limited space for adequate ventilation when using the product. HSIA led a years long effort to enhance product labeling to clearly warn against use in this application. HSIA supports the continued safe use of methylene chloride-based paint strippers through education, labeling and other means.

### **HSIA COMMENTS ON EPA’S PROPOSAL TO IMPROVE THE TRANSPARENCY OF SCIENCE USED TO JUSTIFY ITS POLICIES**

HSIA commented in support of EPA Administrator Pruitt’s proposal to ensure that the research and data underlying major regulations is public and transparent. HSIA’s comments focus on our inability to obtain access to the scientific data underlying the Johnson *et al.* study on cardiac defects and trichloroethylene (TCE). EPA has derived a non-cancer reference concentration for TCE using this study, which has never been replicated, to support more stringent regulatory limits and clean-up values.

### **EPA RELEASES PROBLEM FORMULATION DOCUMENTS ON FIRST TEN TSCA CHEMICALS**

On June 11, the EPA published problem formulation documents on the first ten chemicals chosen to be evaluated under the Toxic Substances Control Act as amended by the Lautenberg Chemical Safety Act. HSIA plans to comment on the documents for trichloroethylene, perchloroethylene, methylene chloride and carbon tetrachloride by the due date of July 26. Comments will be posted at [www.hsia.org](http://www.hsia.org) at that time.

