



California Proposition 65 Warning

The state of California over the last several years has taken the issue of ingredients in consumer products to a whole new level with its Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act, known as "Proposition 65," for even a small amount of wood dust, PVC, formaldehyde emissions or other elements on furniture and household items that might seem trivial to many.

Originally, the proposition was intended to protect drinking water sources from chemical contamination. The scope of the law has since exploded. As the Los Angeles Times wrote recently, "Warnings (about Proposition 65) are everywhere: parking lots, hardware stores, hospitals and just about any decent-sized business."

Proposition 65 requires warning labels on the products or their immediate packaging that may contain any of 800-plus chemicals or ingredients that the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) lists as a carcinogen or a reproductive toxicant. These include wood dust, formaldehyde and a multitude of other everyday elements. A flame retardant upholstery chemical currently required by the state of California to be added to upholstered furniture foams is now included among chemicals that require a warning under Proposition 65.

Many of the elements listed under Proposition 65 are common everyday additives found in products such as jewelry, lamps, ceramic tableware, lead crystal glasses, electric cords, automobiles, beauty products and furniture.

Because there is always a chance that wood dust, formaldehyde or some other of the hundreds of ingredients listed in Proposition 65 could potentially be in our furniture or on the packing materials, we must include Proposition 65 warnings on our products or risk large fines under this law in California. In addition, we are required to use the exact wording for this warning specified by California: "This product contains chemicals known to the state of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm."

We realize that this warning sounds very alarming. While there is research that supports health-related risks due to wood dust, formaldehyde and other ingredients that may be in the product, this research also finds that **the key factor in determining the health risk to humans is the amount of exposure to them. These hazardous exposure limits are generally found in the workplace when the composite wood is being sawn, shaped, drilled and/or sanded.**

Ideally, we would have placed these Stevens Industries, Inc., warnings only on our products being shipped to California. However, Stevens Industries, Inc., like most furniture companies, builds products in large quantities for stock. At the time of production, we rarely know where each item will ship. We have no alternative except to place these warnings on all of our furniture, whether it ends up in California or not. It is also important for all retailers to leave the warning on the furniture or the immediate packaging when they are shipping to people in California.

The safety of our customers and our employees is of highest priority for Stevens' products. We want to assure you of our 50-plus year commitment to offering among the highest quality and safest products in the industry.

As you see from the graphic below, we use third party testing organizations to assure Stevens is in compliance with environmental and safety regulations and have always abided by state and federal regulations. While there may be different opinions about California label requirements with this California law, Stevens Industries, Inc., must honor these compliance regulations.

Most importantly, we promise to also honor the trust you, our customers, have placed in us with your purchase or possible purchase of our products. We will honor your trust by offering products of enduring quality, lasting beauty and uncompromising safety to you and your family.

In an effort to keep you informed, please visit www.stevensind.com/prop65

Industry-affiliated with:



Our fully assembled casework and furniture systems are GREENGUARD Certified.

The American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), that sets safety standards for youth furniture, glass and furniture tip-over prevention, provides Stevens with the most up-to-date testing criteria.

Members of Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturers Association (BIFMA) that sets standards for contract furniture.