

Tabling for the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics

Tabling to gain visibility and support for the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics and our local partners is an important grassroots activity that can recruit additional strong volunteers, gather more signatures for our on-going petition to Congress, attract media, and apply needed pressure on legislative and market targets.

If you've ever been to a community health fair or a local outdoor festival with tables with information on an organization (e.g. the local PTA) or a grassroots action ("please sign this petition to end greyhound racing!"), then you've seen tabling in action. Tabling is a great organizing method; people can approach you to talk learn more about the issue, take some literature, sign up for e-mails and take action.

Where Do I Table?

You can either plug into an existing event (a community health fair, an Earth Day festival, etc.) or approach a local establishment (a church, a health food store, etc.) to table on your own. Contact the event organizer or the community education or public liaison for the establishment as far in advance if possible with your offer to table. (It doesn't hurt to call last minute if you need to - there might be space for you!)

What Materials Will I Need?

Your table needs to draw people over to you to learn more about cosmetics safety, and once folks are there, you'll need to have education and engagement. Please see our Web site (Get Involved > Materials) for a rundown of the Campaign materials available and how to get them (remember to allow a couple of weeks for some materials - others you can print from the Web site). Here are some of the basics:

___ Banner or sign to hang on the front of the table/behind the table. Your local organization and/or the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics could both be recognized here.

___ Props. You can find examples of cosmetics products with "safe" or "natural" on the label that are actually neither (to demonstrate that we need regulation to make these terms meaningful!), or a product that has a very high hazard score in the Skin Deep database, www.cosmeticdatabase.com.

___ Campaign for Safe Cosmetics ads. Print out our ads and hang them up or slide them into an inexpensive plastic stand - these really bring people over to the table!

___ Unmasked brochures

___ Campaign petition to Congress and e-mail sign-up sheets

___ Campaign Frequently Asked Questions (from our Web site)

___ Skin Deep tipcards

___ Campaign for Safe Cosmetics Stickers

___ Current Campaign action or local action; recent reports. Is there a local action you'd like people to take, like sending postcards to local legislators in support of a bill? Please check our Web site for our latest reports, action alerts and the corresponding print-outs for your table.

Tabling Tips

- Familiarize yourself with the Talking Points and the Frequently Asked Questions on the Web site and in the Makeover Kit.
- Start conversations with a short and upbeat opening, like "Hello! Have you heard about the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics?" or "Hi! Did you know that personal care products are not regulated by any government agency?"
- Make sure people sign up for our e-mail list so we can share important information and expand our network! Say something like, "We're here today to collect signatures to send to Congress, asking them to empower the FDA to regulate the cosmetics industry. Would you take a second to sign?" Most folks say yes, but if someone says no you can say, "OK, here is some information about the issue. Please visit the Web site if you're interested."
- Identify enthusiastic people who might want to volunteer in some capacity - ask them if you can send their contact info to Mia, the Campaign's Grassroots Coordinator, at mia@safecosmetics.org.
- It is OK to say "I don't know" to topics you're unfamiliar with. Direct people to our Web site or have them e-mail questions to info@safecosmetics.org.
- If you encounter people who have pressing questions or want more information, simply direct them to info@safecosmetics.org. You're a volunteer - you don't have to have all the answers or be able to talk big-picture strategy!

Tabling Checklist

- ___ Banner/signs; Props
- ___ Tape, stapler, safety pins
- ___ Pens, clipboard
- ___ CSC tabling materials (see above)
- ___ Contact info for event organizer, other volunteers
- ___ Snacks and water for you!

Campaign for Safe Cosmetics in a Nutshell

Or, 5 Ugly Truths Behind the Myth of Cosmetic Safety

Because "USE DAILY" shouldn't be dangerous advice.

1. Toxic chemicals are in our beauty products—and in our bodies.

Every day we use multiple personal care products – from shampoo to deodorant, lotion to make-up – that contain toxic chemical ingredients that are absorbed through the skin, inhaled or ingested. Some of these chemicals are linked to cancer, birth defects, learning disabilities and other health problems that are epidemic in our society.

2. Small exposures can add up to harm.

The cosmetics industry says it's safe to put toxic chemicals into personal care products because the amount in each product is too small to matter. But none of us uses just one product a day – and small amounts of toxins can add up to harm. Chemicals linked to cancer and birth defects do not belong in personal care products, period.

3. The government should be protecting us, but it's not.

Major loopholes in federal law prevent the government from requiring safety testing or approving the safety of cosmetics and body care products. In the United States, the cosmetics industry – not the government – is in charge of product safety.

4. You can't believe industry safety claims.

Manufacturers say their products are safe. But what do those claims really mean? They may mean the company has tested its products, but only to ensure the ingredients don't cause rashes, swelling or other acute reactions. Companies are not required to test their products for long-term negative health effects, such as cancer or the inability to have a healthy child. One-third of personal care products contain at least one chemical linked to cancer, according to the Skin Deep report by the Environmental Working Group, a partner in the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics.

5. The \$50 billion U.S. cosmetics industry routinely opposes laws that would protect consumers and the environment.

The Personal Care Products Council (formerly the Cosmetics, Toiletry and Fragrance Association, or CTFA) has lobbied against laws that would control pollution at cosmetics manufacturing plants, require recycled content in packaging or add more consumer safety information on labels. The industry says it doesn't need laws because it can voluntarily regulate itself.

The Truth Can Also Be Beautiful

Many companies are already making safer products, and are striving to make even safer products in the future. Hundreds of cosmetics manufacturers have signed the Compact for Safe Cosmetics, a pledge to remove hazardous chemicals and replace them with safer alternatives. Unfortunately, none of the major brands found in most drug stores – such as Revlon, L'Oreal, Estee Lauder or Proctor & Gamble – have signed the pledge. Help us give the cosmetics industry a makeover! Take action at www.safecosmetics.org.