

# Phthalates Research Project

## What is the project?

We are identifying common products that are used outside of buildings that might have phthalates in them. When exposed to rain, phthalates can get into stormwater and then into our waterways. Once we have compiled a list of products in current use (such as paint, hoses, traffic cones and tarps), we plan to test the products for phthalates. If they have phthalates, we will conduct tests to find alternatives we can suggest as substitutes.



## Why phthalates?

Phthalates are plasticizer chemicals that are mostly used to make products more flexible. They have been getting a lot of attention lately because they can cause reproductive problems for humans and wildlife. Home Depot and Lowes, for example, just phased out flooring that contains phthalates.



## Who is Zero Waste Washington?

Zero Waste Washington is a nonprofit organization that works to make "waste" a thing of the past, including addressing products containing toxic chemicals that might end up in the waste stream.

## What is next?

After we identify the most commonly used products, we will test them for phthalates, as well as alternatives. We will then come back and let you know the results as well as brands of alternatives for you to consider using in the future.



**More info:** Please contact Eva Dale at [eva@zerowastewashington.org](mailto:eva@zerowastewashington.org) or (206) 441-1790 if you have any questions or suggestions.