

Information release

EU Council and European Parliament reach agreement on safer, more sustainable detergent rules

The new European agreement aims to promote more biodegradable products and ensure greater consumer health protection.

Madrid, 13 June 2025 – The Council of the European Union and the European Parliament have reached a provisional agreement to update the Regulation on Detergents and Surfactants, with the goal of enhancing product safety for people and the environment. The new rules simplify the marketing and free movement of these products within the single market while addressing industry innovations — such as microbial cleaning products — and emerging consumer habits like bulk sales and refill systems.

The agreement also strengthens oversight of imported products. Manufacturers based outside the EU will be required to appoint an authorised representative within the Union to ensure regulatory compliance and liaise with national authorities if needed.

More biodegradability, better labelling, and a ban on animal testing

The European Commission will be empowered to introduce stricter requirements regarding the biodegradability of water-soluble detergent capsules, and to explore the feasibility of applying similar criteria to other organic substances that make up more than 10% of the product. A future review is also planned to further reinforce these goals.

Product labelling will be updated to provide clearer and more comprehensive information, including on allergens and preservatives. This information must be made accessible not only to consumers but also to healthcare professionals and poison control centres through digital formats.

The agreement also bans animal testing, reaffirming the principles established under the [REACH Regulation](#). Only alternative testing methods will be permitted. In exceptional cases, the European Commission may grant an exemption — but only if the ingredient is essential, irreplaceable, and scientifically justified.

Phosphorus impact and next steps

The Council and Parliament have tasked the Commission with assessing the impact of reducing phosphorus content in detergents. This review aims to ensure that any reduction does not compromise product effectiveness to the point that it leads to overuse or more intense washing cycles, which could harm the environment. The outcome may lead to future legislative proposals.

The provisional text must now receive formal approval from both institutions before entering into force.

Source: [Council of the European Union](#)