

Proposition 65 Compliance

Understanding *the* California Proposition 65 Warning

A small amount of formaldehyde gas, nickel, silica crystalline or other elements on furniture and household items might seem trivial to many. The state of California, however, 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."

Originally, the proposition was intended to protect drinking water sources from chemical contamination. Over the years, however, the scope of the law has 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 products that may contain any of 900-plus chemicals or ingredients that the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) lists as a carcinogen or a reproductive toxicant. These include formaldehyde gas, nickel and a multitude of other everyday elements.

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 formaldehyde gas, nickel or silica crystalline or some other of the hundreds of ingredients listed in Proposition 65 could potentially be on our furniture or 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 can expose you to chemicals including [name of California Prop 65 substance (eg formaldehyde gas)], which is known to the State of California to cause cancer or birth defects or other reproductive harm. For more information go to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/furniture."

Ideally, we would have placed these Hooker Furnishings warnings only on our furniture products being shipped to California. However, Hooker Furnishings, 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 when they are shipping to people in California.

The safety of our customers and our employees is of highest priority for Hooker Furnishings. We want to assure you of our 90-year commitment to offering among the highest quality and safest products in the industry.

As you see from our safety and compliance record noted on this page, we have received recognition and awards for our 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, Hooker Furnishings must honor these compliance regulations.

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

Hooker Furnishings wants to keep you informed with our commitment to making the best quality and compliant furniture.

Hooker Furnishings Safety & Compliance Record

Recipient of the Environmental Excellence Award from the American Home Furnishings Alliance (AHFA).

Achieved registration of three manufacturing plants, three distribution centers, two corporate offices and a customer support center in the EFEC (Enhancing Furniture's Environmental Culture) environmental best practices program, certified by AHFA.

Active members of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) that sets safety standards for youth furniture, glass and furniture tip over prevention.

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

In a study of member companies conducted by the AFHA, Hooker Furnishings was the first company to begin compliance with Proposition 65 labeling requirements.