

# THE MYTH VS TRUTH ABOUT BANNING CHEMICAL FAMILIES



**MYTH:**

If a chemical is harmful in one form, it must be harmful in all others.



**MYTH:**

If chemicals have similar names, they should be regulated the same way.



**MYTH:**

The chemical industry does not want lawmakers to ban, restrict, or regulate chemicals.



**TRUTH:**

Each chemical within a family has its own characteristics. Think of it like the foods we eat. Yes, there are poisonous berries, but there are also blueberries, strawberries, raspberries, and many other berries with healthy benefits. Banning all berries -- because one presents a potential risk -- is groundless and illogical.



**TRUTH:**

Even if chemicals sound the same, it doesn't mean they act the same. A sugar maple is not the same as maple sugar. You can see how misleading focusing on just names can be. While the names of chemicals may sound alike, the differences in their use, structure, and health and environmental profiles make them unique.



**TRUTH:**

Defining a chemical category can be a complex process that requires expert help. General misconceptions about chemistry are common, so any time there is a ban, restriction, or regulation, it is important for expert scientists to arrive at a consensus grounded in chemical-specific findings and sound science.



## The Ultimate Truth Is This:

It is critical to take into account the significant differences among the many compounds that are part of a chemical family. Rather than using a one-size-fits-all approach, a fact-based discussion about the nature of these substances, how they differ from each other, and what they do affect -- and what they don't -- should determine the risks, if any, to human health and the environment.

**By banning, restricting, or regulating ENTIRE chemical families, we are eliminating the achievements that individual chemicals within these families can make possible.**