

**California Proposition 65 WARNING:**  
Ski and snowboard boots may contain chemicals which are known to the State of California to cause cancer, or birth defects or other reproductive harm.

Phthalates are colorless and odorless liquids that are sometimes added to vinyl, PVC and other “plastic” materials to make them softer and more pliable. They have been widely used for many years in consumer products such as toys, vinyl flooring, adhesives, shampoo, soap, deodorant, fragrances, and nail polish, as well as medical products, such as bags and tubing for blood transfusions.

Product safety regulators in the United States and Europe have in the past declined to regulate the use of phthalates in consumer products because their studies concluded that typical exposures to products incorporating phthalates were unlikely to pose a risk for consumers. Some people remain concerned about the safety of phthalates, however, especially in children’s products.

The United States Congress passed a law in 2008 known as the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008, which limits the amounts of certain phthalate compounds that may be used in children’s toys and childcare products. The state of California has passed a similar law. These laws do not, however, restrict the use of phthalates in ski equipment or other sporting goods.

Even though sporting goods are exempt from federal restrictions on phthalates, California retailers are posting signs about phthalates with children’s ski and snowboard boots because of a California law known as Proposition 65, a voter initiative passed in 1986. Proposition 65 does not directly regulate the amounts of phthalates that may be in a product, but it requires that warnings be provided to consumers for products that may pose certain health risks, even when the health risks are remote or when only massive exposures are potentially harmful. There are now more than 800 chemicals that require a warning under Proposition 65, and as a result, California consumers see Proposition 65 warnings posted in grocery stores, restaurants, shopping malls, gas stations, office buildings and schools, and on a variety of food items and household products. Fresh fruits, nuts, and vegetables, for example, require a warning that they may contain a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer, or birth defects or other reproductive harm.

There are many phthalate compounds, but only four of them are on the list published by the State of California as requiring Proposition 65 warnings when used in products for children age 12 and under. Ski and snowboard boots may contain some of these phthalate compounds, or other compounds that require Proposition 65 warnings when their concentrations reach certain levels, so we are complying with California law by providing warnings of this possibility.

More information regarding Proposition 65 is available on the State of California’s website at <http://oehha.ca.gov/Prop65.html>. Information regarding phthalates may be found at [www.phthalates.org](http://www.phthalates.org), which is maintained by the American Chemistry Council.