



***SF Environment***

**Our home. Our city. Our planet.**

A Department of the City and County of San Francisco

# Highlights of green products SF City staff must buy

## Public hearing for Precautionary Purchasing Regulations

Presentation by Jessian Choy

# Agenda



1. Background

2. Regulations



Guess how many chemicals have  
**never been fully assessed**  
**for toxic impacts**  
on our health?



80,000

chemicals  
have not been assessed.

Many are in products we use  
everyday.

The Onion jokes that humans:

- Are no longer biodegradable
- Have been reclassified as industrial waste.



That's why SFE uses

nerdy words like

**Precautionary Principle**

Do what causes the least harm.

Better safe than sorry.

# Precautionary Purchasing **Ordinance**

(2005)

requirements...



City staff must use  
**less-toxic, green products:**  
SFApproved.org

SFE should compile existing  
purchasing requirements  
into **regulations**

**Regulations include...**

Green purchasing requirements  
created by City staff end users

Green specifications in  
current or pending contracts.

**How many of you think  
biodegradable plastics  
are compostable?**

Plastic is only compostable  
if it's labeled "compostable"  
(not just "biodegradable")

Compostable bags  
must be labeled "compostable"





Don't use compostable bags for trash.

Compostables in the landfill contribute to climate change.







**Tip:** Save money.  
Put compost in reused paper bags

In 2009, SF became the first city to require City staff to buy computers that are EPEAT Gold



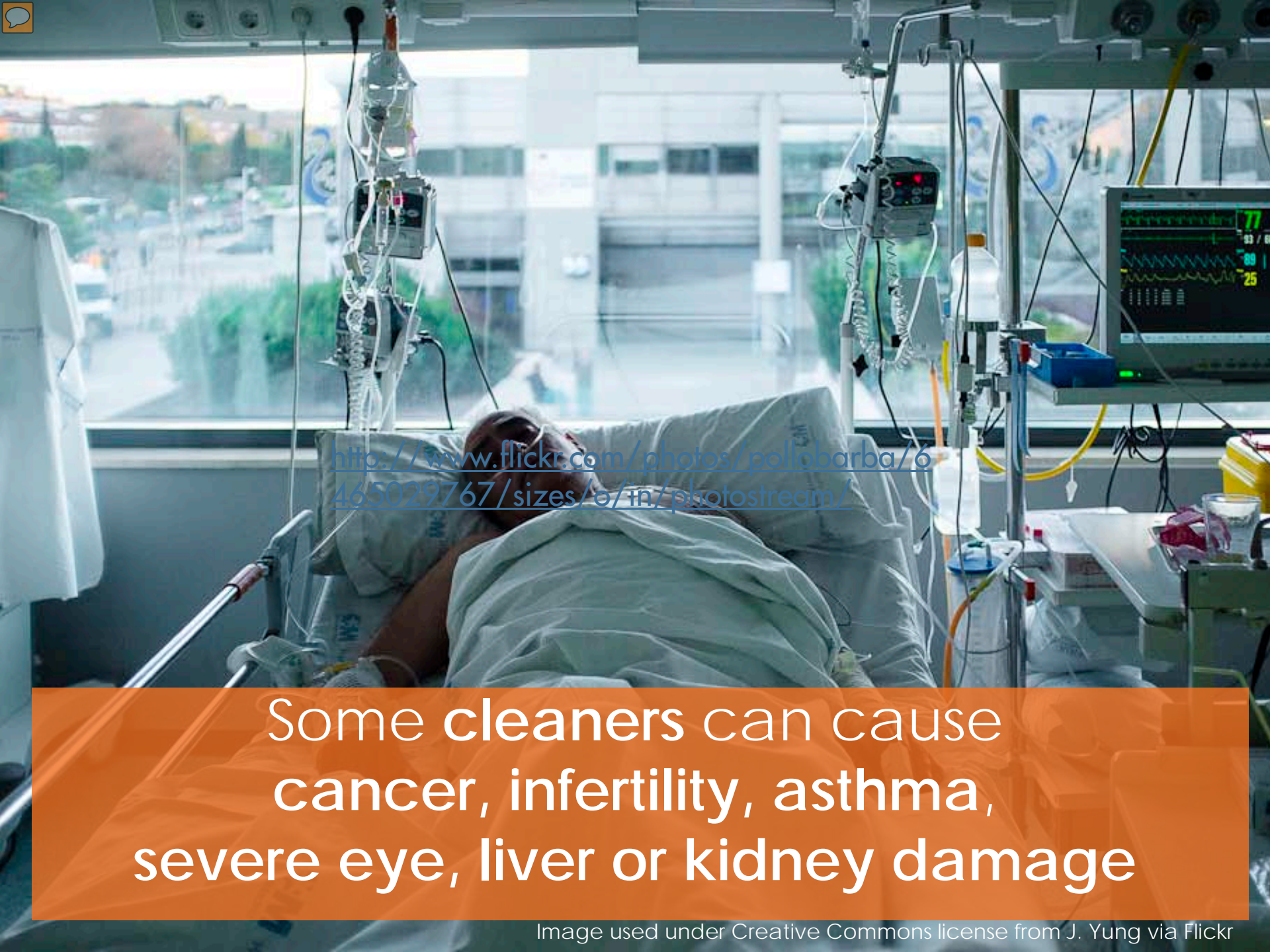
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Some cleaners can cause  
cancer, infertility, asthma,  
severe eye, liver or kidney damage

So City staff must buy:





## Avoid triclosan because it:

- Is in U.S. waterways
- Is persistent (doesn't go away)
- Turns into a cancer-causing compound



No data exist to support efficacy  
of triclosan in consumer products

(American Medical Association)



City staff must buy  
**hand sanitizers**  
without triclosan

HAND  
SANITIZER  
MAN  
DONATIONS  
ONLY  
FREE



City staff must buy  
hand soap & dish soap  
without triclosan



What gets rids of germs  
just as well as  
triclosan?



Plain soap (like this)  
is just as effective at getting rid of germs





Guess if this is a  
CFL, LED or incandescent?





It's a LED that replaces common, dimmable, screw-in incandescents







LEDs don't have toxic mercury  
that's in fluorescents







How much \$ will you save over its life?  
How many years will it last?



Save \$40 in electricity.  
It'll last 21+ years.



City staff must buy all lighting from  
**SFApproved.org**



1,000 less-toxic, green products:

**SFApproved.org**