

FINAL BILL REPORT

ESSB 5628

C 266 L 25
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Concerning lead in cookware.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology (originally sponsored by Senators Harris, Shewmake, Hasegawa, Stanford, Trudeau and Valdez).

Senate Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology
Senate Committee on Ways & Means
House Committee on Environment & Energy

Background: In 2024, the Legislature adopted restrictions on the use of lead in cookware. Beginning January 1, 2026:

- manufacturers and wholesalers may not manufacture, distribute, or sell or offer for sale cookware or cookware components containing lead or lead compounds at a level exceeding five parts per million (ppm); and
- retailers may not knowingly sell or knowingly offer for sale cookware or cookware components containing lead or lead compounds at a level exceeding five ppm.

These restrictions do not apply to sales of previously owned cookware in casual and isolated sales or by nonprofit organizations.

Summary: The allowable threshold for lead in cookware is modified from 5 ppm to 90 ppm beginning January 1, 2026. The allowable lead threshold decreases to ten ppm beginning January 1, 2028. The Department of Ecology (Ecology), in consultation with the Department of Health, may lower the ten ppm limit for lead in cookware beginning after December 2030.

The cookware subject to lead restrictions beginning January 1, 2026 is limited to aluminum or brass cookware, components, and utensils that are not completely encased in stainless steel.

The limitations on lead in cookware do not apply to cookware with only an internal layer of

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aluminum or brass that is completely encased in stainless steel, or the body of electronic cooking devices with removable cooking containers.

The authority of Ecology under the Safer Products for Washington Program with respect to lead in cookware, cookware components, or utensils is not limited by the statutory restrictions on lead in brass and aluminum cookware.

Votes on Final Passage:

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|--------|----|---|--------------------|
| Senate | 48 | 0 | |
| House | 95 | 0 | (House amended) |
| Senate | 48 | 0 | (Senate concurred) |

Effective: July 27, 2025