

The Science of Risk Assessment

Reducing Uncertainty: ESD's Central Focus

Ecological Risk Assessment, at the most basic level, compares an ingredient's ecological effects to its exposure concentration in the environment. Reducing uncertainty of ecological risk estimates is a central focus of study by the Environmental Science Department at P&G.

As new product technologies are developed, a tiered process of risk assessment delivers increasingly accurate safety information. In this way, the Company directs more of its resources toward the product improvements that deliver the greatest benefits to consumers.

In the early tiers of the process, tests are simple, conservative and relatively inexpensive. Many substances used in consumer products may be judged safe at the first tier of the process. If no definitive answer results, however, and the ingredient warrants further development, successive tiers of testing follow.

In higher-tier testing, fate and effect testing methods are more sophisticated and realistic, and the level of uncertainty is reduced.