

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, State Bar number, and address):
Stephen Ure (CSB#188244)
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ATTORNEY FOR (Name): Plaintiff, Evelyn Wimberley

FOR COURT USE ONLY
CASE NUMBER:
37-2011-00092181-CU-PO-CTL
JUDGE
DEF.

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF San Diego
STREET ADDRESS: 330 West Broadway
MAILING ADDRESS: Same
CITY AND ZIP CODE: San Diego, CA 92101-3827
BRANCH NAME: Hall of Justice

CASE NAME: Evelyn Wimberley v. The Home Depot, Inc.

CIVIL CASE COVER SHEET
 Unlimited (Amount demanded exceeds \$25,000)
 Limited (Amount demanded is \$25,000 or less)

Complex Case Designation
 Counter **Joinder**
Filed with first appearance by defendant (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.402)

CASE NUMBER:
37-2011-00092181-CU-PO-CTL
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Items 1-6 below must be completed (see instructions on page 2).

1. Check **one** box below for the case type that best describes this case:
- | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Auto Tort</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Auto (22)
<input type="checkbox"/> Uninsured motorist (46) <p>Other PI/PD/WD (Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death) Tort</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos (04)
<input type="checkbox"/> Product liability (24)
<input type="checkbox"/> Medical malpractice (45)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other PI/PD/WD (23) <p>Non-PI/PD/WD (Other) Tort</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Business tort/unfair business practice (07)
<input type="checkbox"/> Civil rights (08)
<input type="checkbox"/> Defamation (13)
<input type="checkbox"/> Fraud (16)
<input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual property (19)
<input type="checkbox"/> Professional negligence (25)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other non-PI/PD/WD tort (35) <p>Employment</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Wrongful termination (36)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other employment (15) | <p>Contract</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Breach of contract/warranty (06)
<input type="checkbox"/> Rule 3.740 collections (09)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other collections (09)
<input type="checkbox"/> Insurance coverage (18)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other contract (37) <p>Real Property</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Eminent domain/Inverse condemnation (14)
<input type="checkbox"/> Wrongful eviction (33)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other real property (26) <p>Unlawful Detainer</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial (31)
<input type="checkbox"/> Residential (32)
<input type="checkbox"/> Drugs (38) <p>Judicial Review</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Asset forfeiture (05)
<input type="checkbox"/> Petition re: arbitration award (11)
<input type="checkbox"/> Writ of mandate (02)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other judicial review (39) | <p>Provisionally Complex Civil Litigation (Cal. Rules of Court, rules 3.400-3.403)</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Antitrust/Trade regulation (03)
<input type="checkbox"/> Construction defect (10)
<input type="checkbox"/> Mass tort (40)
<input type="checkbox"/> Securities litigation (28)
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental/Toxic tort (30)
<input type="checkbox"/> Insurance coverage claims arising from the above listed provisionally complex case types (41) <p>Enforcement of Judgment</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Enforcement of judgment (20) <p>Miscellaneous Civil Complaint</p> <input type="checkbox"/> RICO (27)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other complaint (not specified above) (42) <p>Miscellaneous Civil Petition</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership and corporate governance (21)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other petition (not specified above) (43) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

2. This case is is not complex under rule 3.400 of the California Rules of Court. If the case is complex, mark the factors requiring exceptional judicial management:
- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| a. <input type="checkbox"/> Large number of separately represented parties | d. <input type="checkbox"/> Large number of witnesses |
| b. <input type="checkbox"/> Extensive motion practice raising difficult or novel issues that will be time-consuming to resolve | e. <input type="checkbox"/> Coordination with related actions pending in one or more courts in other counties, states, or countries, or in a federal court |
| c. <input type="checkbox"/> Substantial amount of documentary evidence | f. <input type="checkbox"/> Substantial postjudgment judicial supervision |
3. Remedies sought (check all that apply): a. monetary b. nonmonetary; declaratory or injunctive relief c. punitive
4. Number of causes of action (specify): One (1)
5. This case is is not a class action suit.
6. If there are any known related cases, file and serve a notice of related case. (You may use form CM-015.)

Date: 5/31/2011
Stephen Ure, Esq.
(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)


(SIGNATURE OF PARTY OR ATTORNEY FOR PARTY)

NOTICE

- Plaintiff must file this cover sheet with the first paper filed in the action or proceeding (except small claims cases or cases filed under the Probate Code, Family Code, or Welfare and Institutions Code). (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.220.) Failure to file may result in sanctions.
- File this cover sheet in addition to any cover sheet required by local court rule.
- If this case is complex under rule 3.400 et seq. of the California Rules of Court, you must serve a copy of this cover sheet on all other parties to the action or proceeding.
- Unless this is a collections case under rule 3.740 or a complex case, this cover sheet will be used for statistical purposes only.

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4 San Diego, CA 92101
5 Telephone: 619-235-5400
6 Facsimile: 619-235-5404

7 *Attorneys for Plaintiff, Evelyn Wimberley*

8 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

9 **COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**

10 **UNLIMITED CIVIL JURISDICTION**

11
12
13 **EVELYN WIMBERLEY,**) **CASE NO.: 37-2011-00092181-CU-PO-CTL**
14)
15 **Plaintiff,**) **COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTIES**
16) **AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**
17 **and**)
18) *(Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 et seq.)*
19 **THE HOME DEPOT, INC.**)
20 **DOES 1-250 INCLUSIVE**)
21)
22 **Defendants.**)
23)
24)
25)
26)
27)
28)

29 **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

30 1. This Complaint is a representative action brought by plaintiff Evelyn Wimberley,
31 in the public interest of the citizens of the State of California, to enforce the people's right to be
32 informed of the presence of lead, a toxic chemical found in Lehigh Consumer Products, LLC
33 Swivel Snap Hooks sold in California.

34 2. By this Complaint, plaintiff seeks to remedy defendants' continuing failures to
35 warn California citizens about their exposure to lead present in or on certain Swivel Snap Hooks
36 that defendants manufacture, distribute and/or offer for sale to consumers throughout the State
37 of California.

1 3. High levels of lead are commonly found in Swivel Snap Hooks that defendants
2 manufacture, distribute and/or offer for sale to consumers throughout the State of California.

3 4. Under California’s Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986,
4 California Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 et seq. (Proposition 65), “No person in the course of
5 doing business shall knowingly and intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to
6 the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without first giving clear and reasonable
7 warning to such individual...” (*Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.6.*)

8 5. California identified and listed Lead as a chemical known to cause birth defects
9 and other reproductive harm. Lead became subject to the warning requirements of Proposition 65
10 for developmental toxicity beginning on February 27, 1987 and for cancer toxicity on October 1,
11 1992. (*27 CCR § 27002; Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.6.*)

12 6. Lead shall hereinafter be referred to as the “LISTED CHEMICAL.”

13 7. Defendants manufacture, distribute and/or sell Swivel Snap Hooks containing
14 excessive levels of the LISTED CHEMICAL including, but not limited to, Lehigh Swivel Snap
15 Hooks (UPC# 0 7151405013 3). All such Lehigh Swivel Snap Hooks containing the LISTED
16 CHEMICAL shall hereinafter be referred to as the “PRODUCTS.”

17 8. Defendants’ failures to warn consumers and/or other individuals in the State of
18 California about their exposure to the LISTED CHEMICAL in conjunction with defendant’s
19 sale of the PRODUCTS is a violation of Proposition 65 and subjects defendants to enjoinder of
20 such conduct as well as civil penalties for each such violation.

21 9. For defendants’ violations of Proposition 65, plaintiff seeks preliminary
22 injunctive and permanent injunctive relief to compel defendants to provide purchasers or users of
23 the PRODUCTS with the required warning regarding the health hazards of the LISTED
24 CHEMICAL. (*Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(a).*)

25 10. Plaintiff also seeks civil penalties against defendants for their violations of
26 Proposition 65, as provides for by California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(b).

27 ////

28 ////

1 **PARTIES**

2 11. Plaintiff Evelyn Wimberley is a citizen of the City of Playa Del Rey, County of
3 Los Angeles. in the State of California, who is dedicated to protecting the health of California
4 citizens through the elimination o reduction of toxic exposures from consumer products, and
5 brings this action in the public interest pursuant to California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7.

6 12. Defendant The Home Depot, Inc. (“Home Depot”) is a person doing business
7 within the meaning of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.11.

8 13. Defendant DOES 1-25 are persons doing business within the meaning of
9 California Health & Safety Code § 25249.11

10 14. Defendant manufactures, distributes, and/or offers the PRODUCTS for sales or
11 use in the State of California or implies by its conduct that it manufactures, distributes and/or
12 offers the PRODUCTS for sale or use in the State of California.

13 **VENUE AND JURISDICTION**

14 15. Venue is proper in the San Diego County Superior Court, pursuant to Code of
15 Civil Procedure § § 394, 495, 395.5, because this Court is a court of competent jurisdiction,
16 because one or more instances of wrongful conduct occurred, and continues to occur, in the
17 County of San Diego and/or because DEFENDANTS conducted, and continue to conduct,
18 business in this County with respect to the PRODUCTS.

19 16. The California Superior Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to
20 California Constitution Article VI, § 10, which grants the Superior Court “original jurisdiction in
21 all causes except those given by statute to other trial courts.” The statute under which this action
22 is brought does not specify any other basis of subject matter jurisdiction.

23 17. The California Superior Court has jurisdiction over DEFENDANTS based on
24 plaintiff’s information and good faith belief that each defendant is a person, firm, corporation or
25 association that either are citizens of the State of California, have sufficient minimum contacts in
26 the State of California, or otherwise purposefully avail themselves of the California market.
27 DEFENDANTS’ purposeful availment renders the exercise of personal jurisdiction by California
28 courts consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

1 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

2 **(Violation of Proposition 65 – Against Defendant)**

3 18. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference, as if full reference, as if full set
4 forth herein, Paragraphs 1 through 18, inclusive.

5 19. The citizens of the State of California have expressly stated in the Safe Drinking
6 Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, California Health & Safety Code § 25249.5, et seq.
7 (Proposition 65) that they must be informed “about exposures to chemicals that cause cancer,
8 birth defects and order reproductive harm.” (*Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.6.*)

9 20. Proposition 65 states, “No person in the course of doing business shall knowingly
10 and intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to the state to cause cancer or
11 productive toxicity without first giving clear and reasonable warning to such individual...
12 (*Id.*)”

13 21. On January 24, 2011 a sixty-day notice violation, together with the requisite
14 certificate of merit, was provided to DEFENDANTS., and various public enforcement agencies
15 stating that as a result of the DEFENDANTS’ sales of the PRODUCTS, purchasers and users in
16 the State of California were being exposed to the LISTED CHEMICAL resulting from the
17 reasonably foreseeable users of the PRODUCTS, without the individual purchasers and users
18 first having been provided with a “clear and reasonable warning” regarding such toxic exposures.

19 22. DEFENDANTS have engaged in the manufacture, distribution and/or offering of
20 the PRODUCTS for sale or use in violation of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 and
21 DEFENDANTS’ manufacture, distribution and/or offering of the PRODUCTS for sale or use in
22 violation of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 has continued to occur beyond
23 DEFENDANTS’ receipt of plaintiff’s sixty-day notice of violation. Plaintiff further alleges and
24 believes that such violations will continue to occur into the future.

25 23. After receipt of the claims asserted in the sixty-day notices of violation, the
26 appropriate public enforcement agencies have failed to commence and diligently prosecute a
27 cause of action against DEFENDANTS under Proposition 65.
28

1 24. The PRODUCTS manufactured, distributed, and/or offered for sale or use in
2 California by DEFENDANTS contained the LISTED CHEMICAL above the allowable state
3 limits.

4 25. DEFENDANTS knew or should have known that the PRODUCTS manufactured,
5 distributed, and/or for sale or use by DEFENDANTS in California contained the LISTED
6 CHEMICAL.

7 26. The LISTED CHEMICAL was present in or on the PRODUCTS in such away as
8 to expose individuals to the LISTED CHEMICAL through dermal contact, hand to mouth
9 contact, and/or ingestion etc. during the reasonably foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS.

10 27. The normal and reasonably foreseeable use of he PRODUCTS has caused and
11 continues to cause consumer exposures to the LISTED CHEMICAL, as such exposure is defined
12 by 27 CCR§ 25602(b).

13 28. DEFENDANTS had knowledge that the normal and reasonably foreseeable use of
14 the PRODUCTS would expose individuals to the LISTED CHEMICAL through dermal contact,
15 hand to mouth contact and/or ingestion.

16 29. DEFENDANTS intended that such exposures to the LISTED CHEMICAL from
17 the reasonably foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS would occur by their deliberate, non-
18 accidental participation in the manufacture, distribution and/or offer for sale or use of
19 PRODUCTS to individuals in the State of California.

20 30. DEFENDANTS failed to provide a “clear and reasonable warning” to those
21 consumers and/or other individuals in the State of California who were or who could become
22 exposed to the LISTED CHEMICAL through dermal contact and/or ingestion during the
23 reasonably foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS.

24 31. Contrary to the express policy and statutory prohibition of Proposition 65, enacted
25 directly by California voters, individuals exposed to the LISTED CHEMICAL through dermal
26 contact, hand to mouth contact, and/or ingestion resulting from the reasonably foreseeable use of
27 the PRODUCTS, sold by DEFENDANTS without a “clear and reasonable warning,” have
28

1 suffered, and continue to suffer, irreparable harm, for which harm they have no plain, speedy or
2 adequate remedy at law.

3 32. As a consequence of the above-described acts, DEFENDANTS are liable for a
4 maximum civil penal of \$2,500 per day for each violation pursuant to California Health & Safety
5 Code § 25249.7(b).

6 33. As a consequence of the above-described acts, California Health & Safety Code §
7 25249.7(a) also specifically authorizes the Court to grant injunctive relief against
8 DEFENDANTS.

9 34. Wherefore, plaintiff prays for judgment against DEFENDANTS as set forth
10 hereinafter.

11 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

12 Wherefore, plaintiff prays for judgment against DEFENDANT as follows:

13 1. That the Court, pursuant to California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(b), assess
14 civil penalties against DEFENDANTS, in the amount of \$2,500 per day for each violation
15 alleged herein;, pursuant to

16 2. That the Court, pursuant to California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(a),
17 preliminarily and permanently enjoin DEFENDANTS from manufacturing, distributing or
18 offering the PRODUCTS for sale or use in California, without providing “clear and reasonable
19 warnings” as detailed by 27 CCR § 25601, as to the harms associated with exposures to the
20 LISTED CHEMICAL:


21 3. That the Court grant plaintiff his reasonable attorneys’ fees and cost of suit; and

22 4. That the Court grant such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

23 Respectfully Submitted,

24 Dated: May 31, 2011

Law Offices of Stephen Ure, PC.

25 By:  _____

26 Stephen Ure, Esq.
27 Attorney for Plaintiff
28 EVELYN WIMBERLEY

**SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)**

FOR COURT USE ONLY
(SOLO PARA USO DE LA CORTE)

**NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):**

The Home Depot, Inc.

**YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:
(LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):**

Evelyn Wimberley

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. **¡AVISO!** Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.

Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. **AVISO:** Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

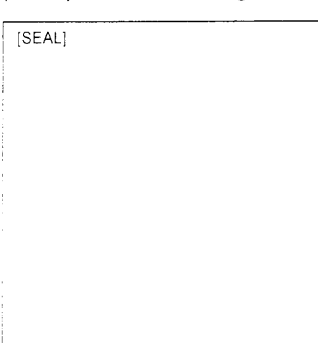
The name and address of the court is:
(El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Hall of Justice
330 West Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101-3827

CASE NUMBER
Número del caso:
37-2011-00092181-CU-PO-CTL

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is:
(El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
Stephen Ure, SBC#188244, Law Offices of Stephen Ure, PC., 1518 Sixth Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101, Tel (619) 235-5400

DATE: _____ Clerk, by _____, Deputy
(Fecha) (Secretario) (Adjunto)

(For proof of service of this summons, use Proof of Service of Summons (form POS-010).)
(Para prueba de entrega de esta citación use el formulario Proof of Service of Summons, (POS-010)).



NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served

- as an individual defendant.
- as the person sued under the fictitious name of (specify):
- on behalf of (specify):
 - under: CCP 416.10 (corporation) CCP 416.60 (minor)
 - CCP 416.20 (defunct corporation) CCP 416.70 (conservatee)
 - CCP 416.40 (association or partnership) CCP 416.90 (authorized person)
 - other (specify):
- by personal delivery on (date):