



BannedPantry.com

Press Kit · Banned Overseas. Still Sold Here.

Founder: Ricki · Single mom, Louisiana · rickilynn86@me.com

bannedpantry.com · Same-day quotes · Custom data pulls · On-camera available

181

Flagged ingredients

54

High-severity

5,942

Indexed pages

9

US state laws tracked

The Story

BannedPantry.com is a freemium barcode scanner built by **Ricki**, a single mom in Louisiana, after a school field-trip flyer made her realize the food dyes in her 10-year-old daughter's lunchbox were banned in the cafeterias of the country they were about to visit. Ricki is currently 6 months pregnant with her second daughter. She built BannedPantry alone — no co-founder, no investors, no team — using AI-assisted development on Next.js, Supabase, and Stripe.

Today, BannedPantry indexes **181 flagged ingredients** (54 high-severity) across **5,942 pages**, every entry tied to a primary source: EFSA opinion numbers, FDA CFR citations, Health Canada Marketing Authorizations, IARC monographs, or state statutes. The app is regularly cited across AI search surfaces (Perplexity, ChatGPT, Claude).

Story Angles

The regulatory gap. 181 additives banned, restricted, or warning-labeled in the EU, Canada, Japan, or California — still legal in US food. Includes Red 40, BVO, BHA, BHT, potassium bromate, titanium dioxide, propylparaben.

The state-law patchwork. 9 active US state laws — California AB 418 (Red 3, BVO, potassium bromate, propylparaben), Texas SB 25 (warning labels), West Virginia HB 2354, Virginia HB 1910, Connecticut HB 6485, Maryland HB 1208, Washington HB 1086, Florida SB 1218, plus the federal FDA Red 3 phase-out.

Reformulation history. Same brand, different country, different formula — Doritos, Skittles, Mountain Dew, Froot Loops. Why Kraft removed dyes in 2016 but US Trix didn't stick.

Solo mom-founder build. Single parent, pregnant, no engineering background. Shipped a production SaaS with AI pair-programming, OpenAI, and Google Cloud Vision OCR — at night, on a kitchen table.

Practical mom angle. A 5-minute pantry audit, 6 ingredients to scan for first, 1:1 dye-free swaps for the products parents actually buy (Lucky Charms to Magic Spoon, Goldfish to Annie's).

Quote-Ready Soundbites

"There are 181 ingredients banned, restricted, or warning-labeled in the EU, Canada, Japan, or California that are still legal in American food — and 54 of them carry high-severity health concerns. We don't have a transparency problem. We have a regulatory gap."

"The same Kellogg's cereal, the same Mars candy, the same Mountain Dew — different formulas depending on which country you buy it in. American parents are eating the cheaper version by default."

"I built BannedPantry because I shouldn't need a chemistry degree to feed my kid breakfast."

"Red 3 was banned in cosmetics in 1990. It was banned in our food in January 2027. That's a 37-year gap on the same molecule."

Available For

Same-day quotes	Written quotes within 60 minutes for breaking food-policy news.
Custom data pulls	Ranked tables for your readers: kid snacks, school lunches, Halloween candy, Easter baskets, Super Bowl snacks — scored against EU / Canada / California standards.
On-camera / podcasts	Studio-quality remote interviews. Demo b-roll of the scanner available on request.
Primary-source verification	EFSA opinion numbers, FDA CFR sections, Health Canada MAs, IARC monographs, state statute citations.

Press contact: Ricki · rickilynn86@me.com · bannedpantry.com · Last updated June 2026