




Back-to-School Guide to **PVC-Free** School Supplies



Keep the **poison plastic** off your back-to-school shopping list!

The Center for Health, Environment & Justice (CHEJ) has created this third-annual Back-to-School Guide to PVC-Free School Supplies to empower you to make smarter, healthier shopping choices for a toxic-free future. This guide lists the most common back-to-school supplies made out of polyvinyl chloride (PVC or vinyl) plastic and suggests safer PVC-free alternatives.



Why Shop for **PVC-Free** School Supplies?

Very important will be on the test!!!

Healthy schools free from toxins are critical to a child's health and well-being. Much of the time spent during the years that children's bodily and intellectual capacities are developing is spent inside school buildings.

Many children's school supplies, such as lunchboxes, backpacks and binders, are often made out of PVC—an unnecessary toxic plastic that is dangerous to our health and the environment across its lifecycle: from production, to use, to disposal.

PVC is unique among plastics because it contains dangerous chemical additives. These harmful chemicals include phthalates, lead, cadmium, and/or organotins, which can be toxic to your child's health. What's worse is the danger these chemicals pose—phthalates and other toxic additives can leach out or evaporate into the air over time posing unnecessary dangers to children. Over 90% of all phthalates are used to soften or plasticize PVC products. **Children are at risk from even small exposures to these toxic chemicals. That's why it's important to purchase PVC-free school supplies.**

Cancer causing chemicals that contaminate the air and water of surrounding communities are used to produce PVC. When PVC is manufactured or burned, numerous dioxins are formed and released. Dioxins are a highly toxic group of chemicals that can cause cancer, and harm the immune and reproductive systems. These and other toxic chemicals released during the PVC lifecycle contaminate our children's bodies and may pose irreversible life-long health threats.

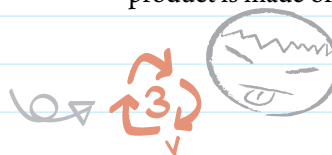
Mentoring a Movement,
Empowering People,
Preventing Harm



How to Identify PVC, the Poison Plastic

The key to avoiding PVC products is recognizing them and knowing how to find safer alternatives.

- PVC products are often labeled with the words “vinyl” on the packaging, such as vinyl 3-ring binders.
- To identify PVC packaging, first look for the universal recycling symbol. If it has the number “3” inside it, or the letters “V” or “PVC” underneath it, you know the product is made out of PVC. *Just remember—bad news comes in #3’s, don’t buy PVC.*
- Some products are not properly labeled, making it tough to determine whether they contain PVC. If you’re uncertain, e-mail or call the 1-800 number of the manufacturer or retailer and ask what type of plastic their product is made of. You have a right to know.



★ ★ ★ Where Does Your Child's PVC Backpack and Lunchbox Come From?

Mossville, Louisiana is a historic African American community, founded in the late 1700's, that's the vinyl manufacturing capital of America. The area is home to more PVC chemical plants than anywhere else in the country. Communities like Mossville, LA, where PVC is manufactured, is where the chemicals used to make PVC lunchboxes, backpacks and other school supplies are created – exposing the community and workers to highly toxic chemicals.

In May 2010, CNN's Dr. Sanjay Gupta aired an hour-long special investigating the pollution problems in Mossville. A US EPA study in 1999 found levels of the cancer-causing chemical vinyl chloride (one of the key chemicals used to make PVC) in the air greater than 100 times the

state air quality standard. As a result of exposure to pollution, residents suffer from elevated rates of disease. The federal government found alarming results- community members had more than three times the national average of dioxins in their blood, elevated dioxins in breast milk, and high cancer mortality rates. A university study found residents were two to three times more likely to suffer from health problems, including a high incidence of ear, nose and throat illnesses, central nervous system disturbances, and cardiovascular problems, as well as increased skin, digestive, immune and endocrine disorders.

Next time you pick up that PVC backpack or PVC school supply, think about communities such as Mossville, Louisiana where these products are created.

Quick Tips for Avoiding PVC School Supplies

Here are some quick tips for avoiding PVC in common back-to-school products. These tips are not perfect – but they will help you embark down the road towards using safer PVC-free school supplies. See the PVC-Free Products and Suppliers section for a more detailed listing of companies that manufacture or sell PVC-free school supplies.

PVC isn't the only plastic that poses a threat to your children's health; also avoid polycarbonate (PC), polystyrene (PS) and acrylonitrile butadiene styrene

(ABS) plastics (see the Other Toxic Plastics to Avoid section). **To be safe, choose non-plastic products whenever possible.**

When choosing plastic items, be sure to not only avoid PVC but also avoid the three-arrow “recycling” symbol with the number 3 and/or the initials PVC; indicating it's made with PVC. If no symbol is present, call the manufacturer's question/comment line (usually a toll-free 800 number) listed on the package to find out what it's made of.

Art Supplies

- Avoid modeling clays made of PVC (polymer clays such as Fimo and Sculpey). Polymer clays are often loaded with phthalates. Look for clays made without PVC and phthalates, or make your own (recipes are available online such as at <http://www.theholidayzone.com/recipes/dough.html>).

Backpacks

- Avoid backpacks with shiny plastic designs as they often contain PVC and may contain lead.

Clothing and Accessories

- Look for PVC-free materials in rainwear (i.e. rain boots and raincoats), prints on clothing, and accessories such as handbags, jewelry and belts.
- In purchasing accessories like purses and jewelry, look for fabrics and other materials rather than plastics. Choices include jacquards, velvets, crinkled crepes, satins, wood, metals, pearls, rhinestones, etc.

Electronics

- Avoid electronics manufacturers who have not committed to phasing out PVC and other toxic chemicals in their production. For a list of companies that are going PVC-free, consult the latest edition of Greenpeace's Greener Electronics Guide that can be found that can be found at <http://www.greenpeace.org/usa/campaigns/toxics/hi-tech-highly-toxic>
- Buy electronics from companies who have pledged to responsibly "take it back" at the end of its useful life.

Food Wrap

- Use PVC-free butcher paper, waxed paper, parchment paper, low density polyethylene (LDPE) or cellulose bags.
- Ask the manager of your grocery store to stock PVC-free food wrap for meats and cheeses in the deli.

Lunchboxes

- Use cloth lunch bags or metal lunchboxes. Many lunch boxes are made of PVC, or coated with PVC on the inside.

Notebooks

- Avoid notebooks containing metal spirals encased in colored plastic. The colored plastic coating on the metal spirals usually contains PVC. Select notebooks with uncovered metal spirals to avoid PVC.

Notebook Dividers

- As a general rule of thumb, choose dividers made solely of paper stock or manila. These dividers have plastic-free, write-on tabs. If there's no plastic, there's no PVC.

Organizers and address books

- Choose organizers/ address books made with sustainably harvested wood, metal, or paper covers.
- Avoid those made of plastic – these sometimes contain PVC.

Packaging of School Supplies

- Avoid single-use disposable packaging whenever possible.
- Avoid the three-arrow "recycling" symbol with the number 3 and/or the initials PVC; indicating it's made with PVC. If no symbol is present, call the manufacturer's question/comment line (usually a toll-free 800 number) listed on the package to find out what it's made of.
- Avoid products packaged in unlabeled plastics, such as clamshells and blister packs, which may contain PVC.
- Choose products with packaging made from more easily recycled materials like paper (look for those with higher post-consumer recycled content), paperboard, and glass.

Paperclips

- Stick to the plain metal paperclips. Colored paper clips are coated with PVC.

Three-Ring Binders

- Use cardboard, fabric-covered, or polypropylene binders. Most 3-ring binders are made of PVC

Umbrellas

- Avoid shiny and colorful plastic umbrellas as these are typically made out of PVC. Look for those made out of other materials such as nylon.

Utensils and Dishware

- Use stainless steel utensils. If you require disposable dinnerware, look for bio-based (made with PLA or PHA plastics) cutlery and plates.



- Use glass or stainless steel drinking containers. If you require plastic, avoid PVC, polystyrene (PS) and polycarbonate (PC) plastics.
- Never microwave with plastics. Use glass, stoneware, or ceramic dishware and

containers instead. Heating plastic increases the chances of chemical additives such as bisphenol A, phthalates or other additives leaching into food and beverages.

PVC-Free Products and Suppliers

To help you find PVC-free school supplies, we've compiled this spreadsheet of companies that offer PVC-free products and where to find them.

This list is a starting point – it is not intended to list every single PVC-free product or manufacturer. Use it as a guide to build your own PVC-free shopping list. It will help you find safer PVC-free school supplies.

A number of these companies also sell school supplies made out of PVC, so be sure to pay attention to the specific PVC-free product names listed herein.

This guide was released in August 2010 and changes to the products listed may have occurred since publication.



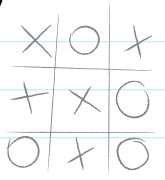
Category	School Supply (Product)	Retailer or Manufacturer of PVC-Free School Supplies	PVC-Free Products and Alternative Materials	More Information
Academic Supplies	Binders	Avery	Certain Avery products are PVC-free: "Heavy-Duty" Binder line, Aluminum Binders, Round Ring Poly Binder, Translucent Active Reference Binder, Recyclable EZ Turn Ring Binder, and Touchguard Antimicrobial View Binder.	www.avery.com (available at most national chains including Staples, CVS, and Target). Also available online
		Binders.com	PE Binders.	www.binders.com
		Green Vision	HDPE plastic (recycled) used for covers. Green Vision is a PVC-free source for most all common school supplies. See below ("Notebooks") for more information	www.greenvision4biz.com (see below "Notebooks" for more info)
		[IN]PLACE SYSTEM	Heavy-Duty Reference Binders with EZ Comfort D-Ring are made of 100% recycled chipboard.	www.inplaceproducts.com . (available at Office-Max).
		Norcom	Poly Binders made of PE.	Available at most national chains including Wal-Mart, OfficeMax, Target, and others.
		Rebinder	Various sizes. Recycled corrugated cardboard. Can be purchased on several websites	www.rebinder.com
		Red Apple School Supply	Green Apple 3-Ring Recycled Binder, Green Apple View Case Binder	www.redapplesupply.com

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Academic Supplies	Binders	Samsil	Earth's Choice Biodegradable D-Ring Binder. Made of PP, formulated to biodegrade in 5 years in a microbial landfill.	www.samsil.com/samsil
		Speedbinder	The EarthBinder is 100% recycled chip-board.	www.earthbinder.com
		Staples	Staples® Plastic Frosted Binders with Round Rings are PP; Staples® Better Binder View Binders with D-Rings are PVC-free.	www.staples.com Available in Staples stores nationwide.
		Storex	All Storex binders are PVC-free.	Available at most national chains including OfficeMax, Office Depot, and CVS.
		Stride	Forevergreen Kraft Recycled D-Ring Binder.	Available at OfficeMax, Office Depot, and others.
		The Green Office	Aurora Products Elements Eco-Friendly Round Ring & Earthview Round Ring Presentation Binder, Recycled PRESSTEX Round Ring Binders, Rebinder Round Ring Binders & Replacement Covers, Cardinal Brands Inc. Locking Round Ring & Non-stick Proview, among others.	www.thegreenoffice.com
		The Naked Binder	The Naked Binder, The Classic Binder, The Eames Wrapped Binder, The Project Binder, and The Architect Binder (all binders are PVC-free and made from 100% recycled materials).	www.TheNakedBinder.com
		Wilson Jones	PVC-free ENVI Customizer Binder available in Standard Line CB, Heavy-Duty CB, and Professional Touch CB. Made of PP and 100% post-consumer cardboard.	www.pvcfreebinder.com (available at Staples, Grand and Toy, Office Depot, Buro Plus, Office Plus, Basics, Lyreco).
	Dry Erase Markers	Eco Smart World	Refillable/reusable markers made out of recycled aluminum.	www.ecosmartworld.com
	Locker Accessories	Lockermate	All locker shelves, UrbnMate Stuff™, GroovyMate Stuff™, PrepMate Stuff™ are PVC-free.	www.lockermate.com (available at Staples, Wal-Mart, OfficeMax, and others.)
	Notebook Dividers	Avery	PE, PP dividers. Check product labels for "PVC-free" options.	www.avery.com (available at most national chains including Staples, CVS, and Target)

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Abbreviations: PE= Polyethylene, HDPE= High Density Polyethylene, PP= Polypropylene, PU= Polyurethane, BFR= Bromine Flame Retardant



Category

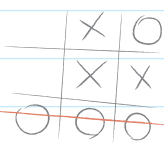
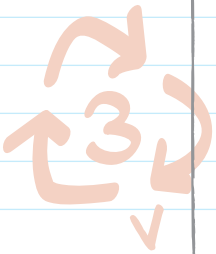
School Supply (product)	Retailer or Manufacturer of PVC-Free School Supplies	PVC-Free Products and Alternative Materials	More Information
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Notebook Dividers	Better Office	PP line of products.	www.betteroffice.com
	Binders.com	PE dividers.	www.binders.com
	Green Earth Office Supply	Recycled/hemp/flax Pocket Dividers.	www.greenearthofficesupply.com
	Office Depot	Office Depot® Brand Durable Plastic PE 5-Tab Color Dividers and Office Depot® Brand Plain Dividers With Write-On Tabs.	www.officedepot.com
	Rebinder	ReTab Index Tab Dividers. Made of recycled cardboard.	www.rebinder.com
	Sustainable Group	Retab Binder Divider Tabs (recycled cardboard).	www.thegreenoffice.com

Academic Supplies

Notebooks	Better Office	Website contains extensive PVC-free school supply product collection.	www.betteroffice.com
	Carolina Pad	Carolina Pad brands include Studio C, Note2Self, Notebound, Ghostline, u:create, and Sasquatch. All notebooks use cardboard covers with either a polyester-based laminate, varnish, or polyethylene finish.	www.carolinapad.com Available at Wal-Mart, CVS, Target, and others.
	Celery Street	Celery Street Eco Friendly Writing Journals. Sustainable forest pulp paper. Selection of sustainable, fair-trade, recycled products.	www.celerystreet.com
	DoSomething.org	Spiral-bound notebooks are plastic-free. Composition books are bound with polyester thread.	www.dosomething.org/products/homeroom Available at Staples.
	Green Vision	HDPE plastic (recycled) used for covers. Green Vision is a PVC-free source for most all common school supplies. Green Vision operates a program allowing a school to design (color and logo) its own school supplies that are then purchased through Green Vision's website by parents. The program also operates as a fundraising tool since the school receives a rebate on all supplies purchased by parents. Please see website for more information.	www.greenvision4biz.com

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Notebooks	[IN]PLACE SYSTEM	[IN]PLACE SYSTEM	[IN]PLACE SYSTEM Poly Cover Notebooks. PE cover.	www.inplaceproducts.com . (available at OfficeMax).
	Mirage Paper Company		Ecojot Greenlined Journal Notebook. 100% recycled, chlorine-free paper; paperboard cover; vegetable-based inks.	www.ecojot.com
	Norcom		Basic Notebooks, Composition Books, Exceed Notebook line, and Omni Notebook line use PE plastic.	Available at most national chains including Wal-Mart, OfficeMax, Target, and others.
	Oxford		Earth Care Stone Paper Note Book. Made using PP and limestone; uses less energy, trees, and water in production than traditional paper.	Available at Walgreens
	Rebinder		ReWrite Journals. Soy-based inks.	www.rebinder.com
	The Green Office		Elements EcoFriendly Binders. Website contains extensive office supply collection.	www.thegreenoffice.com
Academic Supplies (pencil sharpeners, compasses, etc)	Pencil Case Supplies	It's Academic	All products are PVC-free, including Soft Handle Scissors, Clip-On Sharpener & Eraser, Compass, Sharpener, 3 Hole Punch, Flexible Ruler, Protractor, etc.	Available at CVS, Walgreens, Wal-Mart, Staples, OfficeMax, and others.
Pens / Pencils / Erasers / Markers	Bic Corporation		Pens: Ballpoint - Cristal® and Orange Line. Added Value Ballpoint - Velocity®, Atlantis, and Z4®. Pencils: Bicmatic and Bicmatic Refills. Markers: Mark-it® Color/Marking Color. Highlighters: Brite Line®/Clic/Grip Ecolutions line.	www.bicworld.com
	Faber-Castell		All Faber-Castell products are PVC free. Mechanical pencils come in many colors and designs.	www.faber-castell.com
	Green Earth Office Supply		Pens made from leftover wood, recycled cardboard, and recycled newspaper pens.	www.greenearthoffice.com
	Green Vision		Recycled wood and recycled metal used.	www.greenvision4biz.com (see above "Notebooks" for more info)

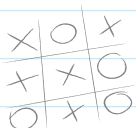
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School Supply (product)	Retailer or Manufacturer of PVC-Free School Supplies	PVC-Free Products and Alternative Materials	More Information	
Pens / Pencils / Erasers / Markers	Industries of the Blind	All pens are PVC-free.	www.industriesoftheblind.com	
	PaperMate	Compostable/Biodegradable line of pens and pencils made from corn-based material.	www.papermategreen.net . Available at Sears, Kmart, Office Depot, and others.	
	Pilot	Pilot BeGreen pens are PVC-free.	Pilot BeGreen pens are available at most office supply outlets	
	ReBinder	ReMark Eco Pens. Made from plants, not plastic.	www.rebinder.com	
	The Green Office	GoodKind Pens- Woody Ballpoint and Triggerwood ballpoint pens; PVC-free plastic clips.	www.thegreenoffice.com	
	Vegetarian Shoes	Biodegradable pens.	www.veganessentials.com	
Zebra Pens	Zebra Pens	"Eco Line" pens are PVC-free.	Available at Staples and Office Max.	
	Planners / Address Books	DoSomething.org	Polypropylene cover.	www.dosomething.org/products/homeroom Available at Staples.
		House of Dottle	PVC-free planners and agenda books. Soy-based ink.	www.houseofdottle.com
		Mirage Paper Company	EcoAgenda: 100 sheets, 6x9"	www.ecojot.com
The Green Office		At-a-glance dayplanners.	www.thegreenoffice.com	
Report Covers	C-Line Products, Inc.	Selection of PP and paper stock report covers.	www.c-lineproducts.com	
	Green Line Paper Company	Twin Pocket Portfolios and clear front report covers. 100% post-consumer recycled paper; polyester, PVC-free covers.	www.greenlinepaper.com	
	Norcom	Portfolios. All plastic is PE.	www.norcominc.com . Also available at Wal-Mart, Target, Office Depot, and others.	
	The Green Office	Pressboard Report Cover With reinforced top hinges, Pressboard Report Covers With Tyvek reinforced hinges.	www.thegreenoffice.com	

Academic Supplies

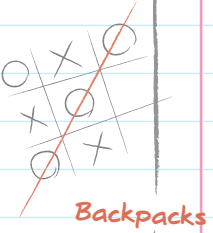
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Sheet Protectors		C-Line Products, Inc.	Selection of PP sheet protectors.	www.c-lineproducts.com
		Staples	Staples® Heavyweight Presentation sheet protectors. PVC-free.	www.staples.com Available in Staples stores nationwide.
		The Green Office	Easy load top Loading recycled PP sheet protectors.	www.thegreenoffice.com
Clothing		Evo	PVC-free Products: Wide variety of clothing.	www.evo.com/clothes
		H&M	All H&M products are PVC-free.	www.hm.com
Glasses		H&M	Nose pads on glasses: silicone.	www.hm.com
		L.L. Bean	All L.L. Bean glasses are PVC-free.	www.llbean.com
		Speedo	All Speedo glasses are PVC-free.	www.speedo.com
Wrist Watches		Lego Wrist Watches	Star Wars series and Clikits Pretty In Pink wrist watches are PVC-free.	Sold online at www.amazon.com , www.thefind.com & www.overstock.com
Apparel	Sneakers	Adidas	Sandals: EVA, rubber outsole; Sneakers: molded EVA insole and midsole.	www.adidas.com
		Asics	All Asics products are PVC-free. Bamboo, canvas, EVA, leather, rubber, etc.	www.asicsamerica.com
		Birkenstocks	Uppers: Birko-Flor material (acrylic and PA), leather, wool; Footbed: cork, leather, jute; Soles: EVA, PU.	www.birkenstocks.com
		Crocs	“Croslite” resins (EVA), some with rubber sole. Note – some Croc knockoffs, like the Kamid Doodle, are made out of PVC. Many of the charms sold to decorate crocs are made with PVC.	www.crocs.com
		Ecolution	Hemp, plant-based dyes, recycled tires	www.ecolution.com
		L.L. Bean	All L.L. Bean shoes are PVC-free.	www.llbean.com
		Nike	Nike products are PVC-free.	www.nike.com
		Rawganique	Hemp, recycled tires.	www.rawganique.com
		Simple Shoes	PVC-free. Primary materials are bamboo, cotton, hemp, and recycled rubber.	www.simpleshoes.com
		Puma	Uppers: canvas, mesh, PU, suede; Outsole: EVA, rubber.	www.puma.com

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Art Supplies	Aprons and Smocks	Bumkins	Made of Bumkins' proprietary waterproof fabric. Lead-safe, PVC-, BPA- & Phthalate-free.	www.bumkins.com
		Ecowise	Waterproof fabric that is PVC-free.	www.ecowise.com
		Mimi the Sardine	Ladybug smock made from organic cotton with water-based acrylic coating.	www.mimithesardine.com
		Sargent Child's Smart Smock	Tyvek art smock.	www.dickblick.com
		The Land of Nod	"Between a Smock and an Art Place" smocks made with EVA.	www.thelandofnod.com (Sold at stores in IL & WA)
Art Supplies	Modeling Clays	Crayola	Crayola dough, air-dry clay and Model Magic. Avoid Sculpy and Fimo (both polymer clays).	www.crayola.com
		Mary's Soft-dough	Chemical free formula: 7 total ingredients, out of which 6 are natural - comes in multiple colors and textures, scented and glitter versions available.	www.softdough.com
		Makin's Clay	New air dry clay that is PVC-free & certified non-toxic.	Find a list of online suppliers at www.makinsclay.com/US/eng/purchase/online.htm .
		Play-Doh	Made of a mixture of salt, water and flour.	www.hasbro.com/play-doh/en_US/
Art Supplies	Backpacks	Beatrix New York	Little Kid & Big Kid backpacks, Little & Big Ecopacks all PVC free.	www.dantebeatrix.com
		CBH Studio	Little Packrats is CBH Studio's collection of PVC-Backpacks with characters such as Bunny, Chloe the Cat, Duck, Milo the Dog & Piggy.	www.cbhstudio.com
		Cool 2 School	Beatrix NY bag (nylon & recycled bottles), Fleurville Messenger pack, Shark School backpack.	www.cool2school.com
		Eastsport "Eco Terra"	PVC- free bags.	Available at Walmart.
		Fleurville	Kid's Messenger bags.	www.fleurville.com
		High Sierra	Denier Polymer fabric.	www.highsierrasport.com
		Jansport	All Jansport products are PVC- and lead-free.	www.jansport.com
		Land's End	All Land's End backpacks are PVC-free.	www.landsend.com



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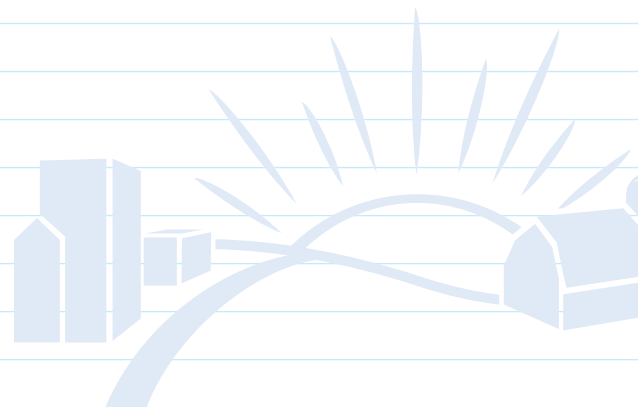
Abbreviations: PE= Polyethylene, HDPE= High Density Polyethylene, PP= Polypropylene, PU= Polyurethane, BFR= Bromine Flame Retardant

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Backpacks	Backpacks	Rawganique	A variety of Hemp bags.	www.rawganique.com
		Seal Line Gear	Urban Backpack, Shoulder Bag and Tote are PVC-free	www.cascadedesigns.com/sealline
		Targus	"Grove" line, "Designed for Dell" line, and "The Spruce Collection" are PVC-free.	www.targus.com
		Timbuk2	Most contain PVC but a few products are PVC-free: Hemp, nylon, PET, TPU water-proof liner.	www.timbuk2.com
Cell Phones	Cell Phones	Apple	All Apple cell phones are PVC-free.	www.apple.com
		Motorola	MOTOCUBO is a BFR/PVC-free, CarbonFree®-certified phone. EcoMoto™ wall charger and EcoMoto rapid car charger are certified PVC-, BFR- free and Carbon-Free®.	www.motorola.com
		Nokia	All new (after 2007) Nokia devices are RoHS compliant and PVC-free.	www.nokia.com
		Palm	All Palm phones are 100% PVC-free.	www.palm.com
		Panasonic	P906i model PVC-free.	www.panasonic.com
		Samsung	All new models after April 2010 are PVC-free. Prior to April 2010 models M560 and Reclaim are PVC-free. Part of the SPHm-570 model is made from recyclable materials.	www.samsung.com
		Sony Ericsson	Since 2007, all Sony Ericsson phones are PVC-free. Since 2009, all chargers (except legacy charger) are PVC-free.	www.sonyericsson.com
Computer Monitors	Computer Monitors	Acer	Since 2008 Acer has been shipping LCD monitors with BFRs-/PVC-free parts, including product casing, printed circuit board laminates, connectors and internal cables. To find a list of BFR/PVC-free models, please visit here: http://www.acer-group.com/public/Sustainability/sustainability_main04-3.htm	www.acer.com

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Lunch Boxes & Bags	Cool Tote		Insulated fabric bags (with nylon).	www.cooltote.com
	Ecobags		Canvas, organic canvas or recycled canvas with Velcro close.	www.ecobags.com
	Fleurville		Lunch Buddy, Lunch Pack.	www.fleureville.com
	Greenfeet		Laptop Lunchbox System.	www.greenfeet.com
	GreenVision		Laptop Lunchbox System.	www.greenvision4biz.com
	Igloo		Playmate cooler, max cold cooler.	www.igloo-store.com : available at CVS and Rite Aid
	L.L. Bean		Critter Lunch Box line.	www.llbean.com
	Land's End		Character Lunch Box, ClassMate, Deluxe Lunch Sack, HotStuff, Lunch Sack, Therma Cool.	www.landsend.com
	Laptop Lunches		Bento boxes designed to reduce disposable lunch waste (made of PP and PE).	www.laptoplunches.com
	Mimi the Sardine "The Lunch Bug"		Acrylic, cotton.	www.mimithesardine.com
	SubZero Blue Jean Lunch Kit		The kit is made with blue jean. Note: all other SubZero products might be made from PVC, please check before buying.	Available at Rite Aid
	Terracycle		"I Could Have Been" lunch bag series with PEVA liner.	Available at Walmart, Target, Home Depot and K-mart among others
	Tin Box Company		Tin stacker lunch boxes.	www.tinboxco.com
	To-Go-Ware		Stainless Steel tiered "tiffin boxes".	www.to-goware.com
	World Of Good on Ebay		Organic Canvas Lunch bag (Fair trade).	www.worldofgood.ebay.com
Lunch Wraps	Farberware		PP	www.costco.com
	Glad		HDPE, LDPE, PP.	www.target.com
	Greenfeet		PVC-free plastic.	www.greenfeet.com
	Natural Value		HDPE, LDPE, PP.	www.kmart.com
	New Wave Enviro		100% bamboo lunch bag.	www.newwaveenviro.com



Lunch Supplies

CHEJ does not endorse any of these products, manufacturers or retailers, nor provide any warranty of the appropriateness of listed products.

Abbreviations: PE= Polyethylene, HDPE= High Density Polyethylene, PP= Polypropylene, PU= Polyurethane, BFR= Bromine Flame Retardant

Category

School Supply (product)	Retailer or Manufacturer of PVC-Free School Supplies	PVC-Free Products and Alternative Materials	More Information
Lunch Wraps	Reusablebags.com	ACME Bags Recycled cotton lunch bags, ACME Bags recycled PET thermal lunch bags, Built NY lunch bags, Kids Konserve Waste-Free lunch kit, Mimi the Sardine cloth lunch bags are all PVC-free and lead-free.	www.reusablebags.com
	Rubbermaid	HDPE, LDPE, PP. Note - Rubbermaid does use polycarbonate plastic in some of its products. They are labeled on their website.	www.target.com
	Saran Wrap	Premium Wrap, Cling Plus Wrap, both made out of PE. Note - the original Saran Wrap was made out of PVC but SC Johnson reformulated the product to remove all PVC.	www.saranbrands.com
	The Soft Landing	All products are PVC, BHA, and phthalate free on this website including Kids Konserve Waste-Free lunch kit, Aladdin Lunch & Go, Laptop Lunch Kit, Olunchbox Kit, Built NY lunch bag.	www.thesoftlanding.com
	Tupperware	HDPE, LDPE, PP. Note - Polycarbonate is used in the following products and should be avoided - Rock 'N Serve Line, Heat 'N Serve, Pizza Keep' N Heat container, the base of the Meals-inMinutes Microsteamer, Sheerly Elegant Line, Table Collection, Prisims, Candy Dish, Olive Oil bottle and from time to time tumblers.	www.tupperware.com
	Ziploc	HDPE, LDPE, PP.	Available at most grocery stores.

Lunch Supplies

Reusable Water-bottles	<i>*Most reusable water bottles are not made out of PVC, but many are made out of polycarbonate plastic which can leach bisphenol A (BPA). The list below provides waterbottles that are BPA free.*</i>		
	Aladdin's Sustain Clean & Clever bottle	BPA-free copolyester. Uses on average 25% post-consumer content per product.	www.aladdin.com
	California Innovations	Hydration bottle with insulated wrap: PVC- and BPA-free.	www.californiainnovations.com : available at CVS
	EarthLust	Designer Stainless Steel bottles with BPA free PP cap.	www.earthlust.com
	EcoUsable	Stainless Steel bottle with micro-filtration system attached to cap for filtered water on the go.	www.ecousable.com

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Category	School Supply (product)	Retailer or Manufacturer of PVC-Free School Supplies	PVC-Free Products and Alternative Materials	More Information
Lunch Supplies	Reusable Water-bottles	Gaiam	Aluminum bottle.	www.gaiam.com : available at Target
		Green Bottles	Stainless Steel bottle with BPA-free PP cap.	www.greenbottleonline.com
		Greenfeet	Stainless steel bottle, PP lid.	www.greenfeet.com
		GreenVision	Stainless steel bottle. See Notebooks section above for information about Green Vision.	www.greenvision4biz.com
		iPlay Baby Wear	Aqua bottles.	www.iplaybabywear.com
		Kleen Kanteen	Stainless steel bottles, PP lid.	www.kleenkanteen.com
		Nalgene	All new Nalgene products are BPA-free. Older models contain BPA and should be avoided.	www.nalgene-outdoor.com
		Platypus Platyp Bottle	BPA free and taste free. Made of nylon, PP and PE.	www.cascadedesigns.com/platypus
		REI	Sells many BPA-free water bottles.	www.rei.com
		Target	Sells many reusable water bottles advertised as BPA-free in their stores.	www.target.com
		Thermos	Vacuum Insulated Commuter bottle.	www.thermos.com
		The Soft Landing	All water bottles are PVC-free.	www.thesoftlanding.com
			Thermos	Food jars- both plastic and steel are BPA- and PVC-free.
Rainboots		Hatley	Rubber rainboots.	www.hatley.com
		iPlay Baby Wear	Rubber rainboots, Aqua shoes (EVA).	www.iplaybabywear.com
Raincoats		C.W.D. Kids	PU coats. Some have cotton linings.	www.cwdkids.com
		H&M	EVA, nylon, PE, polyester, PP, and PU raincoats.	www.hm.com
		Hatley	PVC-free.	www.hatleystore.com
		iPlay Baby Wear	Children's Raincoats. Waterproof fabric.	www.iplaybabywear.com
		L.L. Bean	Waterproof TEK2.5 nylon, all L.L. Bean raingear is PVC-free.	www.llbean.com
		Land's End	Kid's Solid Rain slicker, Men's / Women's Microfiber Rain Jacket, Women's Aquacheck Jacket are made with microfiber, nylon and PU shell fabric.	www.landsend.com
		Puddlegear	All products are PVC-free.	www.puddlegear.com
	R.E.I.	PVC-free.	www.rei.com	

Rain Gear

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Category	School Supply (product)	Retailer or Manufacturer of PVC-Free School Supplies	PVC-Free Products and Alternative Materials	More Information
Rain Gear	Raincoats	Rugged Bear	Kids PU raincoats.	www.ruggedbear.com
		The North Face	HyVent (PU). Caution: their GoreTex fabrics contain PVC.	www.thenorthface.com
	Umbrellas	Hatley	100% nylon.	www.hatleystore.com
		iPlay Baby Wear	Rubber, nylon, EVA.	www.ipplaybabywear.com
		Newport Raingear	100% Nylon, beware this brand's ponchos are made of vinyl.	www.biglotswholesale.com : also available at CVS
		Organically Hatched	Waterproof, PVC-free umbrellas.	www.organicallyhatched.com
		Raines by Totes	Eco-umbrella.	www.totes-isotoner.com : also available at Staples and Office Depot.
		The Weather Station	100% PE, 100% nylon.	Available at Rite Aid

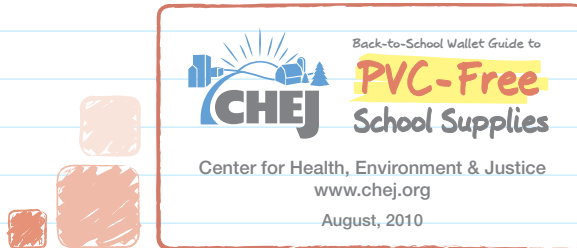
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Other Toxic Plastics to Avoid

Plastic	Why It's Bad	Where Found / How to Identify
Acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS)	This plastic is manufactured with styrene, a chemical that can damage the nervous system and is listed as a possible human carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer. Other key chemicals used in its manufacture include acrylonitrile and butadiene, which are both listed as possible humancarcinogens.	This plastic was not part of the original plastics ID system, so it lacks a number. It is often used in piping, musical instruments, automotive parts, wheel covers, and toys,
Polycarbonate (PC)	Polycarbonate plastic is manufactured with a synthetic sex hormone, bisphenol A (BPA). In 2008, the National Toxicology Program (NTP) raised concerns that exposure to BPA during pregnancy and childhood could impact the developing breast and prostate and affect brain development and behavior in American children. In October of 2008, the Canadian government classified BPA as "toxic" and moved toward restricting its use in baby bottles.	Often (though not always) marked with a "7" (which indicates "other" types of plastic) with the letters "PC" underneath the recycling symbol. Polycarbonate is a hard, durable plastic typically used to make reusable water bottles and baby bottles, in food can linings, and more.
Polystyrene (PS)	Polystyrene is manufactured with styrene, a chemical that can damage the nervous system and is listed as a possible human carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer. Toxic chemicals leach out of polystyrene into food when heated. Manufacture also contributes to ozone formation.	This plastic is often marked with a "6" and used in food service items, such as cups, plates, bowls, cutlery, clamshell takeout containers, and rigid food containers. It's also used in packing peanuts, compact disc cases and other applications.

Download the Wallet-Guide

For a handy “wallet-size” version of this Back-to-School guide to PVC-free School Supplies, visit: <http://www.chej.org/publications/PVCGuide/2010/wallet guide.pdf>



For Parents Learn More & Get Involved!

We hope you find these tips useful as you go shopping for school supplies. Visit our website at <http://www.chej.org/pvc> to sign up for our PVC Action Network e-mail list and learn more ways you can create and sustain a healthy environment for your family!

For Companies Want to Be in the Guide?

We may publish an updated version of this guide next year, so please send us information about your company's products if you'd like to be listed in future editions. To be considered, please e-mail mike@chej.org with the subject “PVC-free school supplies”.

What To Do With My PVC School Supplies

Should you throw out your old PVC school supplies? Unfortunately there's no safe way to dispose of PVC products, which is a key reason we're working to phase it out. When trashed in incinerators and landfills, PVC can release dioxins into the environment, some of the most toxic chemicals known to man. PVC can also leach toxic additives like lead and phthalates into the ground-water of landfills.

What to do!? We recommend returning them to the manufacturer or retailer you purchased them from and ask the company to go PVC-free! Tell them why you're concerned about this toxic plastic and how you want them to phase out PVC in favor of healthier school supplies.

About the Center for Health, Environment & Justice

CHEJ mentors the movement to build healthier communities by empowering people to prevent the harm caused by chemical and toxic threats. We accomplish our work by connecting local community groups to national initiatives and corporate campaigns. CHEJ works with communities to empower groups by providing the tools, strategic vision, and encouragement they need to advocate for human health and the prevention of harm.

Following her successful effort to prevent further harm for families living in contaminated Love Canal, Lois Gibbs founded CHEJ in 1981 to continue the journey. To date, CHEJ has assisted over 10,000 groups nationwide. Details on CHEJ's efforts to help families and communities prevent harm can be found on www.chej.org.

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