



Dioxin pollution causes ban on open burning of wastes!

Today's trash contains a number of materials which, when burned, give off toxic air pollution including dioxins.



Burning trash at home, to save a few dollars, isn't worth the price of your family's health.

It's downright dangerous to breathe that smoke!

Let's use these choices instead: Reduce, Reuse, Redeem, Return, Refill, Rebuild, Reclaim, Recycle & Rethink

You can also help to reduce dioxin pollution from municipal trash incineration by:

REPLACING:  Products
PVC

with 'less polluting' natural materials
OR safer plastic alternatives



WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

www.mainedep.com
www.recyclemaine.com
www.maineenvironment.org

What Can We Do About These Toxic Air Problems?

In addition to eliminating back yard trash burning, we need to reduce the toxic nature of our waste stream that goes to incineration because of potential for serious health effects and contamination of our food supply.


While bleached paper products can release dioxins when burned, PVC plastics waste is a major source of our dioxin pollution in Maine. It is the only plastic that forms significant amounts of dioxin when burned and has very low recycling rates. It is even preferable to avoid burning PVCs in municipal incinerators to reduce air pollutant levels and toxic ash disposal. Safer alternatives exist for virtually every use of PVC plastic.

Identifying Modern Trash - Dioxin Hazards

Although not required, dioxin-forming PVC products may be labeled. Look for the 'plastics recycling label' on the product or its original packaging. Any of the following symbols, letters or words may be used: the number 3 inside a triangle next to the letter V; PVC, PVDC; or Vinyl.



WHAT CHOICES DO WE HAVE? Reduce, Reuse, Redeem, Return, Refill, Rebuild, Reclaim, Recycle & Rethink

REPLACE:  Products with 'Less Polluting' Alternatives

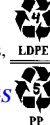
PACKAGING

Look for food, cosmetics and household products in containers and bottles like glass, paper or recyclable plastics (#1-PETE, #2-HDPE, #4-LDPE, #5-PP) instead of PVC (#3, V) . Look for boxes of film wrap identified as *polyethylene* film wrap rather than PVC plastic film wrap.



CONSUMER GOODS

Substitute HDPE or PP products for PVC toys (dolls,pools, beach balls); electronics (computers,phones); checkbook covers, credit cards, vinyl tubing, fabrics, etc.



HOME FURNISHINGS

Buy natural wall coverings and linoleum flooring instead of vinyl materials and; choose HDPE shower curtains rather than PVC.



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