Many products are made from PVC plastics. These products include beverage containers, vinyl siding, medical equipment, and children’s toys. These products have been found to leach toxic additives during their lives. Toxins from PVC bottles leach into the contents inside the bottle, and eventually into the user. Lotions, soaps, bug repellants, shampoos, and maple syrups are some common products found in PVC containers.

Despite PVC industry claims, less than 1% of PVC bottles are recycled every year. The other 99% end up in incinerators or landfills. When burned, PVC releases dioxin, a potent human carcinogen that threatens human and environmental health even at very low concentrations. Burning PVC also releases acutely toxic acid gases into the environment. When buried in landfills, PVC releases toxicants into the earth, and eventually into groundwater.

For more information, please visit www.grrn.org/pvc
Attention Shoppers!

What Can I Do?

**Educate**
- Become an informed consumer. Learn which products use PVC.
- Educate your friends and family about the hazards posed by PVC bottles to public health, the environment and the local recycling program.

**Act**
- Contact the manufacturers of your favorite products and demand they switch from using PVC.
- Organize your local government to adopt a resolution discouraging the sale, manufacture, and purchase of PVC bottles in your community. Companies will not switch to non-PVC packaging without pressure from consumers or government action.

**Communicate**
- Talk to your local retailer. Insist they work with product manufacturers to discontinue the use of PVC.

**How do I know if a bottle is PVC?**
- Usually it is clear with a vertical seam running down the side of the bottle.
- It will have the symbol on the bottom. Remember: the chasing arrows symbol does not guarantee the bottle will be recycled or contains recycled content.
- Large bottles will have a handle.
- Some products use a PET bottle with a PVC sleeve. This form of PVC can also damage PET recycling efforts. Contact the product manufacturer for more information.

(Note: PET bottles are also clear, but will have a nib and a on the bottom instead of the seam. Also, PET bottles will usually have ridged grippers instead of handles.)

So what is packaged in PVC, anyway?

This is a list of some products that may be packaged in PVC bottles:

- Hair Styling Products
- Cooking Oil
- Insect Repellant
- Maple Syrup
- Hand, Body, and Facial Lotions
- Hair Oil
- Facial Cleanser
- Iced Tea
- Aloe Vera Gel
- Mouthwash
- Baby Oil
- Tanning Oil
- Car Care Products

Why are PVC bottles used?

When companies decide to use PVC bottles instead of PET or HDPE bottles they are choosing to save pennies over the environment and public health.

What are some other products made from PVC?

Some of the following items are often made in PVC. Ask your retailer for alternatives.

- Credit cards
- Checkbook covers
- Wallpaper
- Plumbing pipes
- House siding
- Shower curtains
- Car interiors

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