




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 fifth-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 for your children.

Why Shop for PVC-Free School Supplies?

Very important will be on the test!!!

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

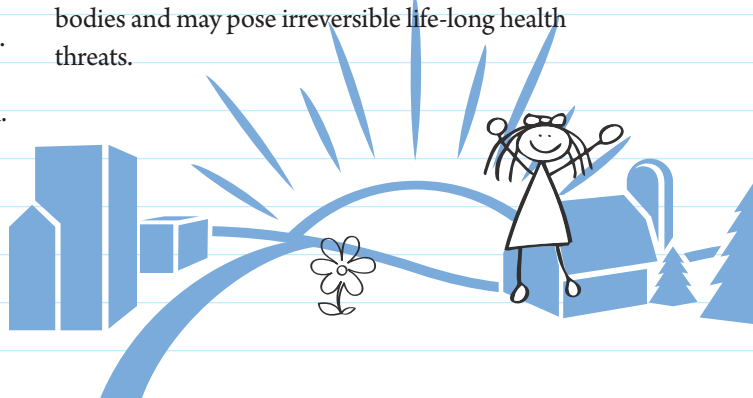
Many children's school supplies, such as lunchboxes, backpacks and binders, are often made out of vinyl—an unnecessary toxic plastic that is dangerous to children's health and the environment across its lifecycle: from production, to use, to disposal.

PVC/Vinyl is unique among most plastics because it contains dangerous chemical additives such as phthalates, lead, cadmium, and/or organotins, which can be toxic to your children's health. Brand new lab tests commissioned by CHEJ and the Empire State Consumer Project in 2012 has uncovered high levels of phthalates in common back to school products including backpacks, lunchboxes, and 3-ring binders. These phthalates can leach out or evaporate into the air over time posing unnecessary dangers to children.

Over 90% of all phthalates are used to soften vinyl products, and have been linked to asthma, learning disabilities, diabetes, and other chronic health problems on the rise. Congress has banned phthalates in children's toys, yet they are widespread in these and other PVC back to school products. *Children are at risk from even very low-level exposures to these toxic chemicals. That's why it's important to purchase PVC-free school supplies whenever possible.*

Cancer causing chemicals like vinyl chloride and dioxin contaminate the air from the manufacture of 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



DID YOU KNOW?
Testing commissioned by CHEJ in 2012 has uncovered high levels of phthalates in common back to school products including backpacks, lunchboxes, and 3-ring binders.

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 small African American community 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 binder or PVC school supply, think about communities such as Mossville, Louisiana where these products are created.

DID YOU KNOW?

Toxic chemicals released by the PVC lifecycle have been linked to chronic diseases that are on the rise such as asthma, obesity, cancer and learning and developmental disabilities.



Quick Tips for Avoiding PVC School Supplies

Here are some quick tips for avoiding PVC in common back-to-school products. 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 on page 20). **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 PVC in smocks by looking for fabric ones.
- Avoid modeling clays made of PVC (polymer clays such as Fimo and Sculpey). Polymer clays are often loaded with phthalates, which are harmful to children's health. 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 phthalates or lead.
- Avoid backpacks with a warning that says something such as, "WARNING: This product contains chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer, and birth defects or other reproductive harm." This means the product likely contains 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.
- Studies have found vinyl raincoats are often loaded with toxic phthalates.
- 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 at <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/campaigns/toxics/electronics/>
- Buy electronics from companies who have pledged to responsibly "take it back" at the end of its useful life.
- To learn how to responsibly recycle electronics, visit <http://www.electronicstakeback.com/how-to-recycle-electronics/>

Food Wrap

- Studies have found chemicals can leach from PVC food wrap into food. 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

- Avoid lunchboxes with a warning that says something such as, "WARNING: This product contains chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer, and birth defects or other reproductive harm." This means the product likely contains lead.
- Even without the warning, many vinyl lunchboxes contain phthalates, and should be avoided.
- Use cloth lunch bags instead. Many lunch boxes are made of PVC, or coated with PVC on the inside.
- Look for lunchboxes labeled as "PVC-free."

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.
- Avoid notebooks with plastic coating, as this may contain 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 (those ones that are clear and usually difficult to open), which may contain PVC.

DID YOU KNOW?
Toxic chemicals released by the PVC lifecycle have been found in the bodies of babies, children and adults. In fact phthalate levels are highest in children ages 6 to 11 and women..

- 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 often coated with PVC.

Raincoats and Rainboots

- Be sure to avoid those advertised as “vinyl.”

Three-Ring Binders

- Use cardboard, fabric-covered, or polypropylene binders. Most 3-ring binders are made of PVC and may contain phthalates.
- Look for binders labeled as “PVC-free.”

Umbrellas

- Avoid shiny and colorful plastic umbrellas as these are typically made out of PVC and likely

contain phthalates. 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 as that will increase the chances of toxic additives migrating into your food. 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.

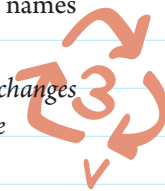
PVC-Free School Supplies Products and Suppliers

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 2012 and changes to the products listed may have occurred since publication.



Category	School Supply	Retailer or Manufacturer	PVC-Free Products and Alternative Materials	More Information
Academic Supplies	Binder Pockets	Avery	Avery Binder Pockets. Labeled PVC-free. Come in various colors. Fits smaller 3-ring binders and organizers: 5.5" x 8.5". 5 pack.	www.avery.com
		Better Office Products	PP binder pockets and index dividers.	www.betteroffice.com
		C-Line Products	PP binder pockets.	www.c-lineproducts.com
	Binders	Avery	Avery sells a number of binders that are labeled PVC-free on the cover and are usually “Heavy Duty” or “Durable.” Chipboard advertised as “made of 100% recycled materials.” They come in various sizes (1", 1.5", 2", 3", 4", 5") and colors (blue, green, orange, red, navy blue, white, black, etc.). <i>Note - they also make binders made out of PVC so be sure to look for the PVC-free labeled ones.</i>	www.avery.com . Available at most national chains including Staples, Rite Aid CVS, and Target. Note - the availability of styles and colors generally vary from retailer to retailer.

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

Academic Supplies

Category	School Supply	Retailer or Manufacturer	PVC-Free Products and Alternative Materials	More Information
Academic Supplies	Binders	Better Office Products	All PP and zipper binders.	www.betteroffice.com
		Binders.com	Polyethylene binders. Note - they also make binders made out of PVC.	www.binders.com
		Green Earth Office Supply	Recycled cardboard binders. Note - they also sell some binders made out of PVC.	www.greenearthofficesupply.com
		Greenroom	100% recycled fiber binders and soy-based ink.	Available at Target.
		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 Non-Stick View Binder made of 100% recycled chipboard.	www.inplaceproducts.com Available at OfficeMax
		Rebinder	Recycled corrugated cardboard. Sourced from verified FSC and SFI certified sources. Various sizes.	www.rebinder.com (bulk only), www.greenapplesupply.org/store
		Samsill	Earth's Choice Biodegradable D-Ring Binder. Made of PP. Note - they also sell binders made out of PVC.	www.samsill.com/samsill
		SpeedBinder	The Standard EarthBinder and Customized EarthBinder is recycled chipboard. Various sizes.	www.earthbinder.com
		Storex	All Storex binders are PVC-free. Polypropylene plastic.	Available at most national chains including OfficeMax, Office Depot, and others.
		Stride	Forevergreen Kraft Recycled D-Ring Binder. Note - they also make binders made out of PVC.	Available at OfficeMax, Office Depot, and others.
		The Green Office	They have taken steps to reduce the sale of PVC office supplies, but haven't entirely eliminated them. Many options, but confirm with them before purchasing.	www.thegreenoffice.com
		The Naked Binder	The Naked Binder, The Classic Binder, The Eames Binder, The Project Binder, and The Architect Binder. All binders are made from recycled materials and none contain vinyl or plastic. Most are made from FSC certified materials.	www.TheNakedBinder.com

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Academic Supplies

Category	School Supply	Retailer or Manufacturer	PVC-Free Products and Alternative Materials	More Information
Academic Supplies	Binders	Wilson Jones	PVC-free binders available in Premium, Heavy Duty, Lite-Touch, Economy and Work Style lines. Many made of PP and 80% post-consumer chipboard. Others are paper based. Look for PVC-free logo on packaging.	www.wilsonjones.com Available at Office Depot, Target, Wal-Mart, Wegmans, CVS, Amazon.com, Staples.com, OfficeMax.com, OfficeDepot.com, Jewel-Osco, and elsewhere.
	Binder and Notebook Index Dividers and Pockets	Avery	Avery makes numerous PVC-free dividers: 1) Durable Write-On Plastic Dividers. Labeled PVC-free. Come in sizes for both small and larger binders. 2) Two Tone Double Pocket Insertable Plastic Dividers. Labeled PVC-free. 5 tabs. 3) Style Edge Insertable Plastic Dividers. Labeled PVC-free. 5 tabs. 4) Durable Pre-Printed Plastic Dividers with Pockets. Labeled PVC-free. 6 tabs. 5) Big Tab Insertable Plastic Dividers. Labeled PVC-free. 5 tabs. 6) Big Tab 2 Pocket Insertable Plastic Dividers. Labeled PVC-free. 8 tabs.	www.avery.com Certain Avery dividers are available (but not all versions per se) at most national chains including Staples, CVS, Rite Aid and Target.
		C-Line Products, Inc.	PP dividers.	www.c-lineproducts.com
		Rebinder	ReTab Recycled Tab Diviers. Made of "rigid" recycled cardboard.	www.rebinder.com (bulk only), www.greenapplesupply.org/store
		The Green Office	Various dividers. Many made with recycled content.	www.thegreenoffice.com
		Wilson Jones	Wilson Jones has a variety of PVC Free products in the index category including: View-Tab®, Poly Insertable Tab, Pocket-Page Insertable Tab, Tough Tab, Erasable Tab and paper Insertable Tab dividers.	www.wilsonjones.com
	Business Card Pages	Staples	Staples brand Clear Business Card Pages. Labeled PVC-free. 20 pocket sheets. 20 cards/sheet.	www.staples.com
	CD / DVD Storage Pages	Staples	Staples brand heavy weight CD / DVD Storage Pages. Labeled PVC-free. 5 sheets. 4 packets / sheet.	www.staples.com
	Expandable Document Case	Better Office Products	PP plastic.	www.betteroffice.com
		C-Line Products, Inc.	PP plastic.	www.c-lineproducts.com
		Smead	Step Index Organizer is PVC-free	Available at Office Depot

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Category	School Supply	Retailer or Manufacturer	PVC-Free Products and Alternative Materials	More Information
Academic Supplies	Expanding Files	Better Office Products	PP plastic.	www.betteroffice.com
		C-Line Products, Inc.	PP plastic.	www.c-lineproducts.com
		Greenroom	Recycled expanding file folders and boxes.	Available at Target.
		Wilson Jones	Wide array of expanding file folders offered in both polypropylene and paper.	www.wilsonjones.com
	Name Badges	Avery	Hanging and pin style. Labeled PVC-free.	Available at Staples, Office Depot, and others.
	Notebooks	Celery Street	Celery Street Eco Friendly Writing Journals. Sustainable forest pulp paper. Selection of sustainable, fair-trade, recycled products.	www.celerystreet.com
		Ecojot	100% post-consumer recycled paper.	www.ecojot.com
		Greenroom	Recycled notebooks. Paper contains 60% -70% recycled fiber. Printed with soy-based ink.	Available at Target
		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
		Moleskine	All notebooks are PVC free.	Staples, www.moleskine.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.	www.walgreens.com
		ReBinder	Recycled Notebook. 100% recycled paper. FSC certified. Soy-based inks.	www.rebinder.com (bulk only), www.greenapplesupply.org/store
		The Green Office	Various notebooks, many with high recycled content. See note under "Binders."	www.thegreenoffice.com

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Academic Supplies

PVC-Free Products and Suppliers

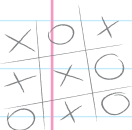
School Supply	Retailer or Manufacturer	PVC-Free Products and Alternative Materials	More Information
Paperclips	ACCO	Nylon-coated color paper clips under ACCO brand name. Also available at OfficeMax under the OfficeMax house brand (the Work Essentials by Swingline brand) in two sizes (jumbo and standard).	www.acco.com Available at Office Max (see column to the left for more information)
	ACCO	Recycled paper clips.	www.greenapplysupply.org/store
	OfficeMate	Metal paper clips. Avoid ones that say vinyl-coated.	Available at Kmart.
	Staples	Metal paper clips. Avoid the color-plastic coated as they are not labeled and may be PVC.	www.staples.com
Pencil Cases	Better Office Products	PP slider pencil case with button flap closure.	www.betteroffice.com
	Caliber	Plastic pencil case w/snap closure (those w/ vinyl & mesh DO contain PVC)	Available at CVS
	CBH Studios	Jack & Chloe Tech Cases and Accessory Cases	www.cbhstudio.com
	C-Line Products, Inc.	PP plastic.	www.c-lineproducts.com
	Stuff Management by SoHo Corp.	All plastic pencil cases are BPA and PVC-free.	Available at Kmart.
Pens / Pencils / Erasers / Markers	AusPen	Refillable whiteboard markers made out of recycled aluminum. Various colors.	www.ecosmartworld.com
	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. Most products are PVC-free and are all listed online.	www.bicworld.com
	Caliber	Various pens & pencils	Available at CVS
	Faber-Castell	Look for their erasers labeled PVC-free.	www.faber-castell.com
	Green Earth Office Supply	Pens made from leftover wood, recycled cardboard, and recycled newspaper pens.	www.greenearthofficesupply.com
	Industries of the Blind	All pens are PVC-free.	www.industriesoftheblind.com
	PaperMate	Biodegradable line of pens and pencils made from PHA, corn-based material. Black Pearl Erasers are PVC- and latex-free.	www.papermategreen.net Available at Sears, Kmart, Office Depot, and others.

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Academic Supplies

School Supply	Retailer or Manufacturer	PVC-Free Products and Alternative Materials	More Information
Pens / Pencils / Erasers / Markers	Pilot	Pilot BeGreen pens are PVC-free and made from post-consumer recycled plastics.	Available at most office supply outlets.
	Stubby Pencil Studio	Eco Highlighters made without plastics.	www.stubbypencilstudio.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	All products are PVC-free.	Available at Staples and Office Max.
Planners / Address Books	Blue Sky	Planners with PP covers, 50% PCW paper and soy-based ink.	Available at Target and Office Depot.
	Green Room	Recycled planners with soy-based ink.	Available at Target.
	The Green Office	Various planners/personal organizers. See note under “binders.”	www.thegreenoffice.com
	House of Doolittle	PVC-free planners and agenda books. Soy-based ink.	www.houseofdoolittle.com
	Moleskine	All planners and datebooks are PVC-free.	www.moleskine.com
Photo Pages	Staples	Staples brand photo pages. Advertised as PVC-free and latex-free. For small binders and organizers: 4” x 6”. 15 1 pocket sheets. 2 photos/sheets.	www.staples.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
	The Green Office	Various report covers. Polypropylene plastic.	www.thegreenoffice.com
	Wilson Jones	Pressboard report covers with metal fasteners, two-pocket poly folders and PP report covers. Look for PVC-free logo on packaging.	www.wilsonjones.com Available at Office Depot.
Sheet Protectors	Staples	Staples sells a number of different types of Sheet Protectors under their Staples brand: 1) Staples brand sheet protectors. Advertised as PVC-free and latex-free. Come in various sizes and groupings/packet (i.e. 10 vs 25 vs. 50). 2) Staples brand Clear Document Pockets. Labeled PVC-free. 25 single-loading sheets. 3) Staples brand Heavyweight Secure Sheet Protectors. Labeled PVC-free. 25 top-loading sheets. 4) Staples brand Non-Glare Heavyweight Sheet Protectors. Some advertised as “clear” and some not advertised as clear. Labeled PVC-free. Top-loading sheets. Come in groupings/packet (i.e. 50 vs. 100).	www.staples.com

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Apparel

Category	School Supply	Retailer or Manufacturer	PVC-Free Products and Alternative Materials	More Information
Apparel	Sheet Protectors	Wilson Jones	PP sheet protectors in a variety of sizes, top- and side-loading, for letter-size paper, photos and more. Look for PVC-free logo on packaging.	www.wilsonjones.com Available at Office Depot and Wal-Mart.
	Clothing	H&M	All H&M products are PVC-free. The company has a fairly robust chemicals policy.	www.hm.com
	Glasses	H&M	All H&M products are PVC-free. The company has a fairly robust chemicals policy.	www.hm.com
		L.L. Bean	All L.L. Bean glasses are PVC-free.	www.llbean.com
	Sneakers	Adidas	Nearly all Adidas products are PVC-free (the company has been working to eliminate PVC since 2000), though some may still contain PVC. Contact the company to double-check.	www.adidas.com
		Asics	The company has been working to eliminate PVC but not all products are totally PVC-free. Contact the company to inquire on specific products.	www.asicsamerica.com
		Birkenstocks	No PVC is used. Uppers: Birko-Flor material (acrylic and PA), leather, wool; Footbed: cork, leather, jute; Soles: EVA, PU.	www.birkenstocks.com
		Converse	Converse products are PVC-free. Nike, who owns Converse, has a fairly exhaustive restricted substance list.	www.nikeincchemistry.com
		L.L. Bean	All L.L. Bean shoes are PVC-free.	www.llbean.com
		New Balance	All New Balance shoes are PVC-free. This company has a fairly extensive "restricted substance" list.	www.newbalance.com
		Nike	Nike products are PVC-free. Nike has a fairly exhaustive restricted substance list.	www.nikeincchemistry.com
		Puma	Most Puma sneakers don't contain PVC, though some do. We recommend consulting their website as the PVC-free ones have a logo next to them under the product, "details."	www.shop.puma.com
		Timberland	PVC is not used in children's footwear. The company has a fairly extensive restricted substances list.	www.timberland.com
		Under Armour	Do not contain phthalates or PVC.	www.underarmour.com
		Van's	Do not contain phthalates or PVC.	www.vans.com
		Zara	They only manufacture PVC-free footwear.	www.zara.com

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Art Supplies	Aprons and Smocks	Bumkins	Short sleeved art smock. Sized to fit most toddlers and pre school age children, ages 3 years - 7 years.	www.bumkins.com
		Etsy	Numerous craftspeople on Etsy sell PVC-free smocks. Be sure to doublecheck with them about the materials they use before ordering.	www.etsy.com
		Mimi the Sardine	Kids aprons. Acrylic-coated organic cotton. Various designs. Also offer adult aprons.	www.mimithesardine.com
		Sargent Child's Smart Smock	Tyvek long-sleeve art smock. 27" long.	www.dickblick.com
	Modeling Clays	Note -- Many polymer clays contain phthalates and PVC. Contact the manufacturer if you're unsure.		
		Clementine Art	Natural modeling dough. No vinyl or phthalates. Dough ingredients are listed on their website.	www.clementineart.com
		Crayola	Crayola clays, Model Magic, Model Magic Fusion, Crayola Dough, and Silly Putty are PVC- and phthalate-free.	www.crayola.com
		Makin's Clay	New air dry clay that is PVC-free.	www.makinsclay.com
		Mary's Softdough	Does not contain any PVC or phthalates. 7 total ingredients, out of which 6 are natural - comes in multiple colors and textures, scented and glitter versions available.	www.softdough.com
		Play-Doh	No PVC or phthalates. Made of a mixture of salt, water and flour.	www.hasbro.com
	Window Cling Film (for window art projects)	Plastiprint	Polypropylene PVC-free cling film (no adhesive).	www.plastiprint.com
Backpacks	Backpacks	CBH Studio	Little Packrats is CBH Studio's collection of PVC-free Backpacks with various characters/designs. Polyester.	www.cbhstudio.com
		Crocodile Creek	All backpacks are PVC-free.	www.crocodilecreek.com
		Ebags	Most of the bags are PVC-free but some still do contain vinyl. If it contains PVC, it will be mentioned in the "product features" section.	www.ebags.com
		Eco Gear	All backpacks are PVC-free.	www.ecogear-products.com
		Hanna Anderson	All backpacks are PVC-free except for the rolling backpack.	www.hannaanderson.com
		High Sierra	All backpacks are PVC-free.	www.hssc.com

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Category	School Supply	Retailer or Manufacturer	PVC-Free Products and Alternative Materials	More Information
Backpacks	Backpacks	Jansport	All Jansport products are PVC-free. Made of denier polyester, canvas, leather and suede for the most part.	www.jansport.com
		Kid's Travel Zone	All backpacks are PVC-free.	www.kidstravelzone.com
		Land of Nod	All backpacks are PVC-free.	www.landofnod.com
		Land's End	All Land's End backpacks are PVC-free.	www.landsend.com
		L. L. Bean	All backpacks are PVC-free.	www.llbean.com
		Mighty Nest	All backpacks are PVC-free.	www.mightynest.com
		Mimi the Sardine	All backpacks are PVC-free.	www.mimithesardine.com
		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
		Skip Hop	Zoo Packs little kid backpacks & Diaper Bag backpacks.	www.skiphop.com
		Skullcandy	All backpacks are PVC-free.	Found at Target
		Timbuk2	All new bages are PVC-free. The fabric is a PU coated nylon.	www.timbuk2.com Available at REI, Amazon.com, Eastern Mountain Sports, Paragon Sports, and others.
		Wildkin	Most backpacks they sell are PVC-free. Some older styles still contain PVC in the lining so double-check the product description or contact the company.	www.wildkin.com
Electronics	Cell Phones	Apple	All new Apple iPhones are PVC-free.	www.apple.com
		Dell	Dell Aero (excluding the accessories which still contain PVC).	www.dell.com
		LG	All newly developed phones since January 2010 are PVC-free.	www.lg.com
		Motoroloa	All of its new mobile phones are now PVC-free. All chargers are also free from PVC and BFRs. The Motorola CITRUS™, Motorola GRASP™ and Motorola SPICE™ are examples of products that are BFR-, PVC- and phthalate-free.	www.motorola.com
		Nokia	All its new models have been free of PVC since 2006.	www.nokia.com
		Panasonic	All mobile phones have been PVC-free (excluding internal wiring in a charger) from 2005 models onwards.	www.panasonic.com
		Samsung	All of its new models have been free of PVC since April 2010.	www.samsung.com
		Sony	Since 2007 all SE products have been PVC free and in 2009 all charger cables except one legacy charger, became completely free of PVC.	www.sonyericsson.com

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Electronics

Category	School Supply	Retailer or Manufacturer	PVC-Free Products and Alternative Materials	More Information
Electronics	Cell Phones	Toshiba	Mobile phones launched after January 2010 are free from PVC and BFRs.	www.toshiba.co.jp
	Computer Monitors	Acer	They sell the following PVC-free LCD monitors: C233HL, C203HL, C193HQL, C243WL, C243HQL, C193WL, C223HQL, and C223WL.	www.acer-group.com
		Apple	All Apple monitors are 100% PVC-free including the power cord.	www.apple.com
		Dell	The G-series monitors (G2210 and G2410) are PVC-free.	www.dell.com
		HP	The HP Compaq LE19f and LA22f Widescreen LCD monitors are virtually PVC-free and the Passport 1912nm Internet Monitor has PVC-free plastics and finishes. The HP 2310e Ultra-Thin WLED Backlit LCD Monitor is PVC-free, except external cords, and the HP 2311xi 23 inch Diagonal IPS LED Backlit Monitor will have BFR/PVC free plastics, finishes, and stand.	www.hp.com
		Lenovo	ThinkVision L2440x Wide and L2251x Wide are PVC-free.	www.lenovo.com
		Samsung	All new LCD panels are PVC-free.	www.samsung.com
	Desktop Computers	Acer	Altornet, Veriton, and All-In-One PCs are PVC-free.	www.acer-group.com
		Apple	The new Apple iMacs are PVC-free	www.apple.com
		Dell	OptiPlex 990 SFF	www.dell.com
		HP	No use of PVC except for cables. HP has desktops that are completely free of PVC and BFRs: the Compaq 8000f Elite & Compaq 600S Ultra Slim desktop.	www.hp.com
		LG	PVC/BFR free HDD, ODD, FET, DC jack, and IC for X300 model	www.lg.com
		Lenovo	Lenovo M90p SSF desktop.	www.lenovo.com
	Flash Drives	Active Media Products	Sold as endangered species trio or separately as Panda, Penguin, and Polar bear. Koala also available.	www.activemp.com Available at amazon.com
		GreenVision	Bamboo cased flash drives. See Notebooks section above for information on Green Vision.	www.greenvision4biz.com
	Laptops	Acer	TravelMate 8172T, TravelMate 8372T, TravelMate 8472T and TravelMate 8572, NS10 Gateway, NS30 Gateway, NS41 Gateway, NS51 Gateway, TravelMate 6595TG, TravelMate 8573T, TravelMate 8573TG, TravelMate 6495T, TravelMate 6495TG, TravelMate 8473T, TravelMate 8473TG.	www.acer-group.com

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Category	School Supply	Retailer or Manufacturer	PVC-Free Products and Alternative Materials	More Information
Electronics	Laptops	Apple	All new Apple laptops (i.e. Macbook, Macbook Pro) after 2008 are PVC free including the external power-cords.	www.apple.com
		Dell	The XPS 13, Inspiron 13z, and all Latitude laptops are PVC-free.	www.dell.com
		HP	No use of PVC except for cables. The following Eco Highlights products are PVC free, except power supply & cords: Elite-Book 2740p, 8440p, 8440w, 8540p, 8540w; ENVY 14 series, 14 Beats Edition Series; G42, G62, G72 Notebook PC Series; Mini 110 & 210 PC series; Pavillion dm1, dm3, dm4, dv5, dv6, dv7; and Touchsmart tm2.	www.hp.com
		Nokia	Mini laptop Booklet 3G.	www.nokia.com
		Samsung	All notebooks developed from January 2011 (except power cord & adaptor).	www.samsung.com
		Sony	All Spring 2011 VAIO models, including F, B, S, C, J, W, L, E, Y, Z, G, P, X, and M series.	www.sony.com
		Toshiba	The Portege 600 series of notebook PCs and the worldwide models Portege R700 and Libretto W100 are PVC-free (except for the external cables) and BFR free for casing and all plastic parts weighing 10g or more.	www.toshiba.co.jp
	Printers	HP	HP ENVY 100 e-All-in-One Printer is described as the "planet's first PVC-free printer."	www.hp.com
	Tablets	Amazon	Kindle is PVC-free	www.amazon.com
		Apple	The iPad is PVC-free	www.apple.com
		Barnes & Noble	NOOK is PVC-free	www.barnesandnoble.com
		HP	TouchPad Wi-Fi series is PVC-free	www.hp.com
		Motorola	XOOM2 tablet is PVC-free	www.motorola.com
Gym Supplies	Exercise Balls	Eco Wise	Premium Fitness Ball, Peanut Ball, Hop Ball. All are free of PVC and latex.	www.ecowisefitness.aeromats.com
	Playground Balls	Crocodile Creek	All playground balls (various designs) are PVC-free.	www.crocodilecreek.com
	Tennis Bags	Wilson	Tour Bag.	www.wilson.com
	Yoga Mats	Barefoot Yoga	Various styles, materias and options.	www.barefootyoga.com
		Go Green Yoga Mats	Various styles, materias and options.	www.gogreenyogamats.com
		Jade Yoga	Various styles, materias and options.	www.jadeyoga.com
		Kulae	Various styles, materias and options.	www.kulae.com
		Rawganique	Various styles, materias and options.	www.rawganique.com

PVC-Free Products and Suppliers

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Lunch Supplies

Category	School Supply	Retailer or Manufacturer	PVC-Free Products and Alternative Materials	More Information
Lunch Supplies	Lunch Boxes and Bags	Accessory Innovations	Zhu Zhu Pets lunchbox. Labeled PVC-free.	www.zhuzhupets.com Available at Target
		Bright Bin	The New Generation Lunchbox	www.brightbin.com
		Bring Your Own	Gusto Lunch Bag, Labelled PVC- and BPA-free.	Target
		Built	Big Apple Buddies (various designs), Rambler Lunch Bag (various designs - made out of neoprene and polyester, Gourmet Getaway Mini Lunch Tote, Gourmey Getaway Lunch Tote and Spicy Relish Lunch Tote are all PVC-free. Sandwich and Snack Bags are PVC-, BPA-, latex-, and vinyl-free.	www.builtny.com The Rambler version is sold at Staples.
		CBH Studio	Jack & Chloe Lunch Pod, Jack & Chloe Lunch Bag, Friendship Tote	www.cbhstudio.com
		Cool Tote	Insulated fabric bags (with nylon).	www.cooltote.com
		Crocodile Creek	All lunchboxes are PVC-free.	www.crocodilecreek.com
		Easy Lunchboxes	All coolers are PVC-free	www.easylunchboxes.com
		Ecobags	Canvas, organic canvas or recycled canvas with Velcro close.	www.ecobags.com
		Eco Gear	All lunchboxes are PVC-free.	www.ecogear-products.com
		Eco Lunchboxes	All products are PVC-free. Stainless steel lunchboxes and cotton lunchbags. The outer shell is PP and the seal is silicone.	www.ecolunchboxes.com Available at Whole Foods and REI.
		Farberware	EcoFresh food storage products contain no Lead, Vinyl, PVC, Phthalates, or BPA.	www.farberware-foodstorage.com
		Glad	All GLAD products are made of polyethylene and are PVC-, phthalate- and BPA-free.	www.glad.com
		Go Green In Stages	Stainless steel lunch kits and snack containers.	www.gogreeninstages.com
		GreenVision	Cotton and PP lunch bags. See Notebooks section above for information about Green Vision.	www.greenvision4biz.com
		Hanna Anderson	All lunch bags are pvc-free.	www.hannaanderson.com
		Igloo	Produced with #2 plastics. BPA-free.	www.igloo.com
		Kids Konserve	They sell various PVC-free lunch kits.	www.kidskonserve.com
		L. L. Bean	All lunchboxes are PVC-free.	www.llbean.com
		Land's End	All lunchboxes are PVC-free.	www.landsend.com
		Land of Nod	All lunchboxes are PVC-free.	www.landofnod.com
		Laptop Lunches	All containers are PVC-free.	www.laptoplunches.com

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Lunch Supplies

PVC-Free Products and Suppliers

School Supply	Retailer or Manufacturer	PVC-Free Products and Alternative Materials	More Information
Lunch Boxes and Bags	Mimi the Sardine	All are PVC-free (organically grown cotton with an acrylic coating).	www.mightynest.com
	Mighty Nest	They sell many PVC-free lunchboxes made by various companies.	www.mightynest.com
	New Wave Enviro	100% bamboo lunch bag.	www.newwaveenviro.com
	PlanetBox	Stainless steel.	www.planetbox.com
	ReUseIt.com	They sell various PVC-free lunchboxes.	www.reusit.com
	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	Food storage containers are all PVC-free. Rubbermaid lists products on their website that have BPA, but none of them are currently being manufactured.	www.rubbermaid.com
	Skip Hop	Lunchboxes are PVC-, phthalate, and BPA-free.	Available at Target.
	Thermos	They sell a number of different lunch boxes / coolers labeled PVC-free: 1) Children's Insulated Lunch Kit. Labeled PVC-free. Come in at least 5 different designs (i.e. Spiderman, Star Wars, etc.). 2) 6-can Lunch Cooler. Various designs. Leak-proof PVC-free lining made out of PEVA. 3) 9-can Insulated Tote. Various designs. Leak-proof PVC-free lining made out of PEVA.	Available at Staples and Target
	To-Go-Ware	Stainless Steel food carriers.	www.to-goware.com
Lunch Wrap and Bags	Tupperware	Food storage containers made of HDPE, LDPE, PP. All items have been BPA-free since March 2010.	www.tupperware.com
	Ziploc	Containers and all products made of PP and without PVC, BPA, CFCs, lead, and other toxins as listed on website.	Available at most grocery stores.
	Glad	All GLAD products are made of polyethylene and are PVC-, phthalate- and BPA-free.	www.glad.com
	Natural Value	Clear Plastic Wrap is PVC- and phthalate-free.	www.greenapplesupply.org , www.amazon.com
	Saran Wrap	Premium Wrap, Cling Plus Wrap, both made out of PE. No BPA or plasticizers. Note - <i>the original Saran Wrap was made out of PVC but SC Johnson reformulated the product to remove all PVC.</i>	www.saranbrands.com
	Ziploc	HDPE, LDPE, PP.	Available at most grocery stores.

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Category	School Supply	Retailer or Manufacturer	PVC-Free Products and Alternative Materials	More Information
Lunch Supplies	Reusable Water Bottles	Note -- Most reusable water bottles are not made out of PVC, however many are made out of polycarbonate plastic which can leach bisphenol A (BPA). See the Other Plastics to Avoid section to learn about this hazard. The list below provides waterbottles that are BPA-free.		
		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
		Gaiam	Aluminum bottle.	www.gaiam.com Available at Target
		Green Bottles	Stainless Steel bottle with BPA-free PP cap.	www.greenbottleonline.com
		GreenVision	Stainless steel bottle. See Notebooks section above for information about Green Vision.	www.greenvision4biz.com
		iPlay Baby Wear	PP Aqua bottles.	www.ipplaybaby.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 Bottles	BPA free and taste free. Made of nylon, PP and PE.	www.cascadedesigns.com
		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
		Tazzini	All bottles are PVC-free and made from stainless steel. The lids are PP.	www.tazzini.com
Nap Mats	Nap Mats	Envirokid	PVC-free nap-mats	www.myenvirokid.com
		Sewn Natural	All their nap mats are PVC-free. Materials include hemp and organic cotton.	www.sewnnatural.com
		Wildkin	Nap mats do not contain vinyl or phthalates. Available in multiple designs.	www.wildkin.com
Rain Gear	Rainboots	Note -- You can find many other companies that sell real rubber rainboots. Just make sure they're not PVC as PVC is often in rainboots.		
		Hatley	Rubber rainboots.	www.hatleystore.com
		iPlay Baby Wear	Soft Rainboots, Solid Rubber Rainboots.	www.ipplaybabywear.com

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Rain Gear

Category	School Supply	Retailer or Manufacturer	PVC-Free Products and Alternative Materials	More Information
Rain Gear	Rain Coats	Etsy	Numerous craftspeople on Etsy sell PVC-free.	www.etsy.com
		H&M	All H&M clothing items are PVC-free.	www.hm.com
		Hatley	Various styles and designs.	www.hatleystore.com
		iPlay Baby Wear	Various styles and designs.	www.iplaybabywear.com
		L.L. Bean	All L.L. Bean raingear is PVC-free.	www.llbean.com
		Land's End	All Land's End raingear is PVC-free.	www.landsend.com
		Puddlegear	All products are PVC-free. Jackets and pants. Various designs. Polyurethane coated stretch fabric.	www.puddlegear.com
		Totes	Raines youth poncho. EVA.	www.totes-isotoner.com
	Umbrellas	Note -- You can find many other companies that sell umbrellas made out of nylon or polyester. Be careful of children's clear plastic and color ones, as those are more likely to be made of vinyl and likely contain phthalates.		
		Hatley	Kid's umbrella. Various designs. 100% nylon.	www.hatleystore.com
		iPlay Baby Wear	Various designs. Rubber, nylon, EVA.	www.iplaybabywear.com
		Organically Hatched	Waterproof, PVC-free umbrellas.	www.organically-hatched.com
		Totes	Most umbrellas don't contain PVC, such as the Eco Umbrella, though the "Bubble Umbrella" does contain PVC. Doublecheck the label before purchasing.	www.totes-isotoner.com
		The Weather Station	Polyester umbrellas.	www.medichest.com

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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 human carcinogens.	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. Numerous states and governments around the world have banned BPA in baby bottles and other products.	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, in food can linings, thermal receipt paper and more.
Polystyrene (PS)	Polystyrene is manufactured with styrene, a chemical that can damage the nervous system and is listed as reasonably anticipated to be human carcinogens by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. 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.

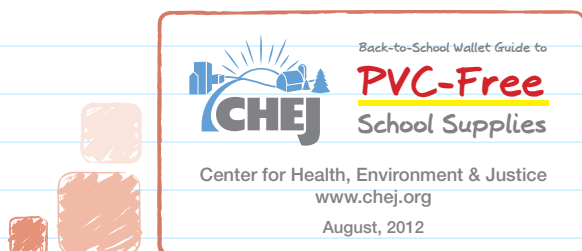


FIRED UP AND
READY TO GO
BACK-TO-SCHOOL
PVC-FREE!



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/PVCwallet.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://chej.org/campaigns/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 Can I Do? Take Action for Healthy PVC-Free Schools

PVC is also found in many other products in our nation's schools. Thankfully safer and cost-effective alternatives are already available for virtually every PVC product in our nation's schools. From safe plastics, to bio-based materials, there is a growing market replacing hazardous PVC products. **Here's how you can help today:**

- Educate yourself about where PVC is hiding in your school by visiting <http://www.chej.org/thisvinylschool> or downloading our fact-sheets at <http://chej.org/campaigns/pvc/projects/pvc-free-schools/>
- Encourage your school to renovate or build their school with PVC-free building materials such as PVC-free linoleum flooring and TPO roofing.
- Encourage your school district, county or state to adopt a healthy PVC-free policy to avoid the use of PVC building materials and office supplies in favor of safer cost-effective alternatives.
- Educate parents, teachers and students! Organize a screening of Blue Vinyl and Sam Suds for your PTA, teacher's union, or concerned students. See: <http://chej.org/campaigns/pvc/get-involved/promote-the-sam-suds-video/>
- Encourage organizations to endorse the campaign at <http://tinyurl.com/pvcfreeschools>.



About the Center for Health, Environment and 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 11,000 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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