




**TOXICITY OF PVC**





# TOXICITY OF PVC DIOXIN

It has been reported that throughout its existence polyvinyl chloride plastic (PVC), from production through use and disposal, produces more Dioxin than any other product. Dioxins are carcinogens and are highly toxic to the cells of our bodies.

Dioxin is not made deliberately. It is an undesirable, unwanted byproduct of chlorine chemistry. It is said to be the most toxic man-made chemical. A resolution passed by the Oakland, California City Council includes “Whereas, the U.S. EPA estimates that the lifetime risk of getting cancer from dioxin exposure is above generally accepted safe levels, and the U.S. EPA Dioxin Reassessment has found dioxin 300,000 times more potent as a carcinogen than DDT (the use of which was restricted in the U.S. in 1972)”.

The International Joint Commission (IJC), the environmental watchdog agency for the Great Lakes Basin, has called for a ban on the use of chlorine and chlorinated products for industrial production (including the production of PVC), and identified dioxin and dioxin-like compounds as persistent toxic substances and recommends zero discharge. The IJC was established by the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement of 1978 between the United States and Canada, and the Commissioners for the United States are appointed by the President and confirmed by the United States Senate.

Approximately 200 cities in Europe have banned the use of PVC for public works construction.