



cut along the dashed line



Back-to-School Wallet Guide to

# PVC-Free School Supplies

Center for Health, Environment & Justice  
www.chej.org

August, 2012

fold in half here along the dotted line

## Quick Tips for Avoiding PVC School Supplies

### Art Supplies

- Avoid PVC in smocks by looking for fabric ones. Avoid modeling clays made of PVC (polymerclays such as Fimo and Sculpey).

### Backpacks

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

### Clothing and Accessories

- Look for PVC-free materials such as fabric in raincoats, rainboots, prints on clothing, and accessories such as handbags, jewelry and belts.

### Lunchboxes and Food-Wrap

- Use cloth lunch bags. Many plastic lunch boxes are made of or lined with PVC and may contain phthalates or lead. Look for lunchboxes labeled "PVC-free."
- Use PVC-free butcher paper, waxed paper, parchment paper, low density polyethylene (LDPE) or cellulose bags for food-wrap.

### Notebooks

- Avoid notebooks with metal spirals encased in colored plastic as it usually contains PVC, and plastic-coated notebooks.

### Paperclips

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

### Three-Ring Binders

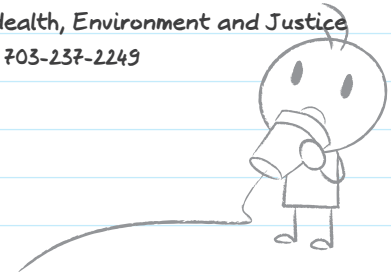
- Use cardboard, fabric-covered, or polypropylene binders. Most 3-ring binders are made of PVC and often contain phthalates. Look for binders labeled "PVC-free."

## Learn More & Get Involved!

Visit our website at <http://www.chej.org> to download the full **Back to School Guide to PVC-Free School Supplies**, sign up for our PVC-Free Schools Action Network e-mail list and learn more about how you can create a healthier toxic-free future for your family!

## ★ Contact us at

Center for Health, Environment and Justice  
www.chej.org • 703-237-2249



fold along the dotted line

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

The Center for Health, Environment & Justice (CHEJ) has created this handy **Back-to-School Wallet Guide to PVC-Free School Supplies** to empower you to make smarter, healthier shopping choices for your children.

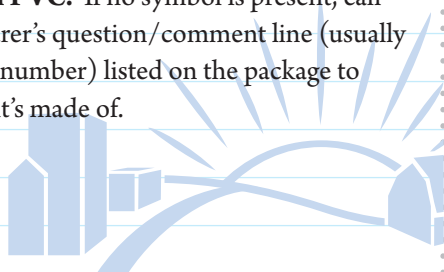
## Why Shop for PVC-Free School Supplies?

Many children's school supplies (such as lunchboxes, backpacks and binders) are often made out of polyvinyl chloride (PVC or vinyl)—a toxic plastic loaded with phthalates that is dangerous to children's health and the environment.



## How to Identify PVC, the Poison Plastic

Here are some quick ways to identify and avoid PVC in common back-to-school products. Look for non-plastic products whenever available. When choosing plastic items, be sure to avoid PVC as well as polycarbonate (PC), polystyrene (PS) and acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS) plastics. **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.



fold along the dotted line