

Fact bite #26



Melamine



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Melamine resin is a plastic food contact material used as a surface coating for paper, board, beverage cans, and jar lids, as well as to make reusable tableware.

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Its main building block, melamine, is usually combined with formaldehyde and other agents to produce a plastic material used for packaging and tableware.

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Studies have shown that melamine and formaldehyde can migrate from melamine resin food contact materials into food.

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Melamine has been associated with many adverse health effects, including inflammation, reproduction toxicity, and neurotoxicity, and it is a suspected carcinogen. Formaldehyde is known to cause cancer and is a suspected mutagen that can damage DNA.

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Melamine resin is oftentimes used to make reusable foodware. Repeated use and washing can increase the migration of melamine and formaldehyde into food.

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