

Fact bite #40



Black plastics



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Black plastic consumer goods, including food contact materials, can be made from recycled electronic and electrical equipment. This may lead to the presence of harmful chemicals that should not be in contact with food.

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Flame retardants have repeatedly been found in recycled black plastic household items. A 2024 study found concentrations up to 11,900 mg/kg of the restricted compound BDE-209 in a sushi tray.

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Concentrations were well below the U.S. reference dose for a 60 kg adult. However, concerns over these and other harmful chemicals showing up in recycled consumer goods as contaminants remain.

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