# Black Plastic

**Why in News?**

*A study found that black plastic contains toxic chemicals that may pose health risks.*

- **Source** – It is often made *from recycled electronic waste* such as computers, TVs, and appliances.
- **Manufacturing process** – The casings of products like computers, TVs and coffee machines are typically *treated with flame retardants* to prevent electrical fires.

> ***Legacy Plastic*** *is a high-grade 100% post-consumer processed plastic recovered from used marine gear, coastal shorelines and our oceans for use in the manufacturing of new value-added, durable products.*



- **Usage** – They are used to make cooking spatulas, takeout boxes and kitchen peelers.
- **Health impacts** – The flame retardants and heavy metals associated with black plastic

are known to be toxic to humans at high levels of exposure and are now banned in many countries.

- **Flame retardant** – Bromine, antimony and decabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-209).
- **Heavy metals** – Lead, cadmium, and mercury.

| Toxic chemicals in Black Plastic | Health Risks |
|---|---|
| **Decabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-209)** | Hormone imbalances, nervous system damage and cancer. |
| **Bromine** | Thyroid hormone imbalances and reproductive problems. |
| **Antimony** | Skin irritation, respiratory problems and an increased risk of cancer. |
| **Lead** | Impaired brain development, high blood pressure and kidney problems. |
| **Cadmium** | Weaken bones and damage kidneys and lungs. |
| **Mercury** | Damage the brain and nervous system, especially dangerous for children and pregnant women. |

**Reference**

The Indian Express| Black Plastic

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