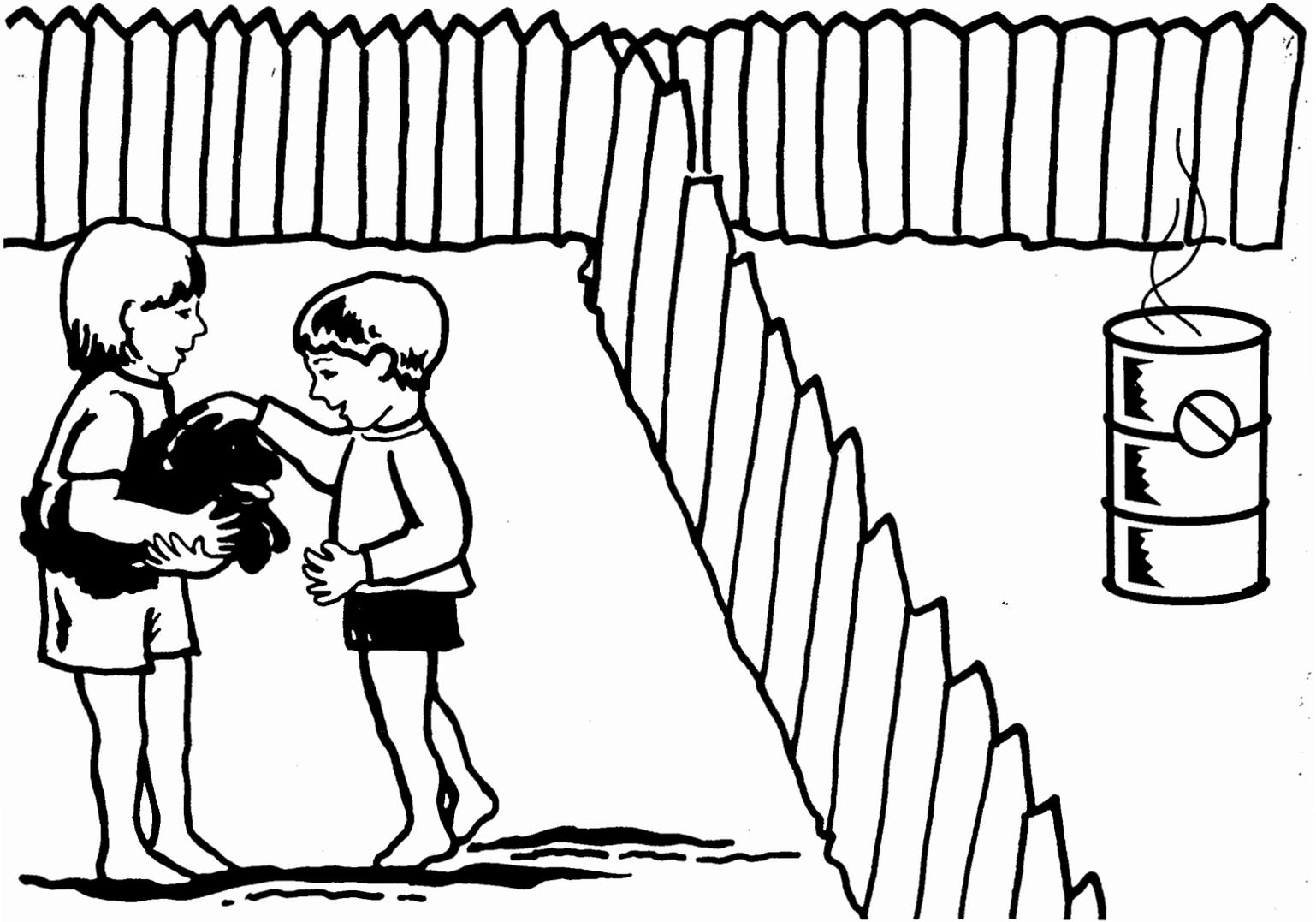


# AIR POLLUTION HAS NO BOUNDARIES



## THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE DOWNWIND

**B**urning today's trash is dangerous. It can harm you, your children and your neighbor.



**Be a good neighbor**



**Protect our health**

Produced by concerned citizens with endorsements from Blue Cross Blue Shield; Earth Citizens News; Vermont Chapter of the American Lung Association; Vermont Chapter of the Sierra Club; Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force; Vermont State Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

# **POLYVINYLCHLORIDE (PVC) as an example of the problem of BURNING TRASH CONTAINING MODERN MATERIALS**

POLYVINYL CHLORIDE (PVC) & OTHER CHLORINATED POLYMER PLASTICS are common components of today's trash (see listing below). Their chemical nature makes them difficult to handle in the solid waste stream. This can lead unknowingly to very dangerous problems if the material is burned.

**THESE PLASTICS POSE PROBLEMS FOR RECYCLING:** The end products of PVC plastics vary considerably in composition so they cannot easily be blended and reused. If PVC is mixed with other plastics in a recycling process, hydrogen chloride gas is released, contaminating the entire batch.

**PVC PLASTICS HAVE LONG TROUBLED INCINERATION:** Hydrogen chloride gas forms hydrochloric acid in the stack. These acids attack incinerators, increasing the cost of maintenance and shortening their life span. Worse yet, burning of PVC produces dioxins and chlorinated furans, two of the most toxic cancer causing substances known.

**BECAUSE OF LIMITED OUTLETS FOR PVC RECYCLING AND THE RISING COST OF DIMINISHING LANDFILL SPACE, IT MAY BE TEMPTING TO BURN PVC PRODUCTS IN BURN BARRELS, WOOD STOVES, OR BACK ALLEY INCINERATORS.**

ALL VERMONTERS SHOULD KNOW, BURNING IS A HIGHLY DANGEROUS PRACTICE  
\*PLEASE REDUCE YOUR USE OF PVC\*  
UNTIL THERE IS AN ACCEPTABLE DISPOSAL SOLUTION

PVC CONTAINS 56% CHLORINE. WHEN BURNED, PVC PRODUCES LARGE QUANTITIES OF HYDROGEN CHLORIDE GAS. WHEN BREATHED, THIS GAS COMBINES WITH WATER TO FORM HYDROCHLORIC ACID IN THE LUNGS. DIOXINS AND FURANS CAN ALSO BE PRODUCED. THESE HIGHLY TOXIC CANCER-CAUSING SUBSTANCES ARE EITHER INHALED DIRECTLY OR ARE DEPOSITED ON SOIL, WATER, AND CROPS WHICH BECOME A PART OF THE FOOD CHAIN.

A PARTIAL LISTING OF PRODUCTS CONTAINING PVC AND PVDC FOLLOWS.

Plastic shrink-wrap, blister paks  
Imported mineral water bottles  
Window cleaning solution bottles  
Dish detergent bottles  
Peanut butter jars  
Cap and lid liners  
Salad dressing, vinegar bottles  
Vegetable oil bottles  
Mouthwash bottles  
Liquor bottles

Floor polish bottles  
Some pharmaceutical bottles  
Certain cosmetic containers  
Some personal care containers  
Some household chemical bottles  
Saran wrap, other food wrap  
Plumbing drain pipes  
Floor tile, sheet flooring  
House siding  
Window frame cladding

Clear vinyl tubing used in:  
maple sugaring lines  
dairy operations  
food processing  
Electric cable sheathing  
Vinyl upholstery materials  
Automotive interiors  
A variety of toys  
Infant and child's gear  
Also, many other items

PVC is identified by the symbol . PVDC (polyvinylidene)  is found primarily in clear food wrap. Sometimes other plastics (usually PETE)  are substituted for PVC in the bottles and jars listed above. Look for recyclable alternatives when you shop, such as PETE .

**PLEASE  
DON'T  
BURN  
TRASH**

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**Be a good neighbor**



**Protect our health**

**Today's trash is different from yesterday's! Burning synthetic materials is a toxic threat to our health.**