


HAZARDOUS TOXINS FOUND IN E-SCRAP



Lead

Exposure can cause brain damage, nervous damage, blood disorders, kidney damage and developmental damage to fetus. Children are especially vulnerable. Acute exposure can cause vomiting, diarrhea, convulsions, coma or death.

Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)

Most widely-used plastic, found in everyday electronics. When burned produces large quantities of hydrogen chloride gas, which combines with water to form hydrochloric acid (HCl). Inhaling HCl can cause respiratory problems. Production and incineration of PVC creates dioxins.

Brominated Flame Retardants (BFRs)

Suspected of hormonal interference (damage to growth and sexual development), and reproductive harm. Used to make materials more flame resistant, but exposure studies reveal BFRs in breast milk, and blood of electronic workers, among others.

Chromium (IV) - Hexavalent Chromium

Exposure can cause strong allergic reaction (linked to Asthmatic Bronchitis) and DNA damage to cells. Workers exposed at disposal stage and may be released into the environment from landfills and incineration.

Mercury

Exposure through ingestion or inhalation can cause central nervous system damage and kidney damage.

Beryllium

Exposure can cause lung cancer, and chronic beryllium disease (berylliosis) (affects lungs).

Cadmium

Long-term exposure can cause kidney damage, and damage to bone structure, also a known carcinogen. Short term or acute exposure can cause weakness, fever, headache, chills, sweating and muscle pain.