

## 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](#)

