

## 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](#)

