

LVT's Best Kept Secret

Luxury Vinyl Tile is PVC. PVC is one of the worst types of plastic.

Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) flooring has been rebranded as luxury vinyl tile or LVT. It may look good, but it's still just fossil fuel based plastic that has a terrible carbon footprint and is manufactured with toxic chemicals.

Three Reasons to NOT Choose LVT

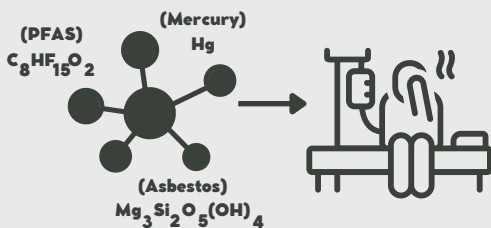
1. LVT is a roadblock to decarbonization goals

LVT production releases enormous amounts of carbon dioxide that have been underestimated in environmental product declarations (EPDs) by up to 180%! This is because EPDs based only on the US supply chain don't factor in that the most common flooring sold in the US is made in China, where coal is used as a raw material as well as a power source.



2. LVT production uses highly-toxic chemicals

Mercury, asbestos, PFAS (per and poly-fluoroalkyl substances), and other toxic chemicals used in LVT production are hazardous to workers all along the supply chain and contaminate air, water, and soil, particularly in frontline communities. These communities tend to be low-income and communities of color, perpetuating environmental racism and injustice. Cancer, and damage to the lungs, brains, immune and endocrine systems, are just some of the known health effects of these toxic chemicals.



3. There is no safe way to dispose of LVT

You can't safely bury, burn, or recycle LVT. In landfills, where most of it ends up, LVT releases toxic chemicals that pollute groundwater and the surrounding environment. Incinerating PVC releases potent carcinogens. When PVC is recycled (which is rare) harmful contaminants remain and end up in new products. Companies typically use a majority of virgin PVC in their flooring, even those that claim they recycle their PVC floors.



What You Can Do

Sustainable purchasing is recognized as a key driver in achieving global decarbonization and toxics elimination goals. Choosing safer flooring supports the health of people and the ecosystem.

- Specify healthier flooring with the [CEH Healthier Flooring Purchasing Guide](#)
- Tell other purchasers, designers, and architects why LVT is not worth the cost
- Inform sustainability and ESG decision makers that LVT is not the solution
- Tell flooring representatives why you don't want LVT
- Share this fact sheet!

