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 fenceline 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.

LVT production uses highly-toxic chemicals

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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!

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1https://ceh.org/LVTreport