

PVC

Bad News Come in Threes: The Poison Plastic, Health Hazards and the Looming Waste Crisis

Top Ten States Incinerating PVC			
State	Amount of PVC Incinerated (tons)	Number of Incinerators	Percent Incinerated (After Recycling)
Florida	45,364	13	37.1%
New York	37,517	10	24.4%
Massachusetts	28,145	7	54.6%
Virginia	18,806	5	27.9%
Pennsylvania	17,746	6	22.6%
Connecticut	16,257	6	55.4%
Minnesota	14,432	15	46.1%
Maryland	12,486	3	22.6%
Maine	5,448	4	66.2%
Hawaii	3,454	1	32.7%
New Hampshire	1,675	2	22.2%
Remaining States *	49,075	32	Varies
Total	250,405	104	10.5%

Sources and Notes: Estimates derived from Kaufman (2004) for 2002. The amount of PVC incinerated by each state was calculated by: (1) assuming that the percent PVC content of municipal solid waste (0.62%) estimated by the USEPA (2003) is representative of the typical percentage of PVC in the waste stream; (2) assuming that post-consumer recycling of PVC in MSW is zero; (3) multiplying the average percent PVC in the waste (0.62%) by the total waste generated in that state according to Table 4 in Kaufman (2004); and (4) multiplying this value (the total PVC disposed in the state) by the percent of waste incinerated after recycling as shown in column 2 above. The percent of PVC incinerated after recycling was determined by dividing the total amount of waste incinerated in a state (provided in Table 4 of Kaufman 2004) by the total waste disposed of (after recycling).

* 19 states did not burn any MSW according to Kaufman 2004 and AL, AK, and MT did not report any data (see Appendix B).