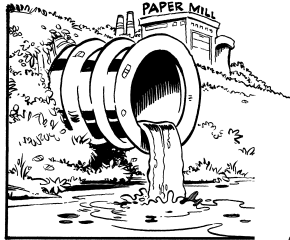


CHLORINE



Since the discovery of how to inexpensively separate it from salt back in the 1890s, chlorine has become a building block in thousands of products. In fact, 1% of all the energy now used on Earth goes into making chlorine.

Companies that make chlorine tell us it's good because chlorine keeps our drinking water safe. But less than 5% of all the world's chlorine is used for this. The rest is used to make plastics, bleaches, pesticides, chemicals and other products. The problem is, all these other products make thousands of tons of toxins (poisons), which are dumped into our soil, atmosphere, water supply, and even end up in our body tissues.

Most chlorine is used to make plastics or bleach paper. One of the most toxic plastics is polyvinyl chloride (PVC), which is used for everything from household plumbing pipes to shower curtains to packaging for toys. At every stage of its life cycle—while it is made, while it's being used and after it's thrown away—PVC causes pollution.

In other parts of the world, the use of chlorine for many products and chemicals is being stopped. But in the US, the industries that make money from chlorine have used their influence with our government to keep it legal—and in our lives.

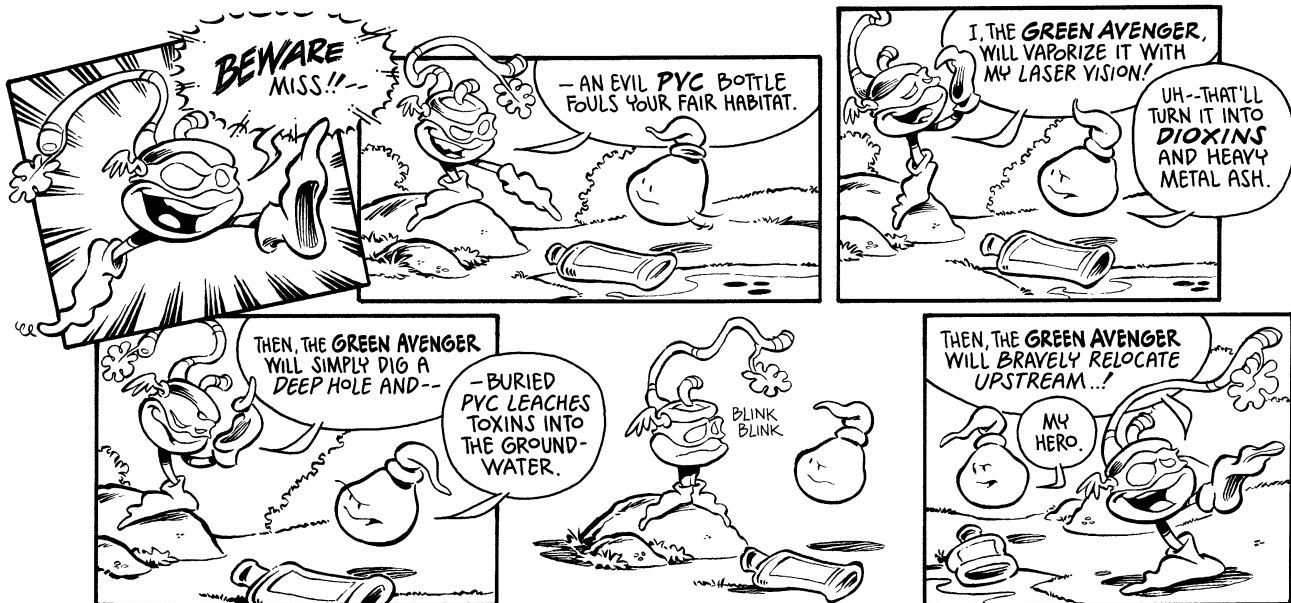


Help Paige mail a letter to her Congressperson about the health risks and dangers of chlorine pollution.

Sources for this article: www.rustletheleaf.com/earthdaybook.html

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