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# How to balance phasing out of legacy substances with higher recycling rates?

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**Reinventing Plastics – Closing the Circle**  
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## **We need a clean circle!**

Hazardous chemicals in materials can disrupt recycling.

Phasing out of hazardous substances is the prerequisite,  
not the obstacle!

A sustainable circular economy must be a clean circle,  
with non-toxic material cycles.



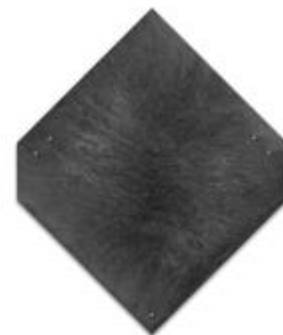
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## Gaps in implementation and enforcement

Contaminated recycled materials in toys: BFRs in



Lack of enforcement for furniture & building products:  
PVC roof tiles with very high VOC content



**Is this what we want in a recycled product?**



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## Way forward

- No double standards: recycled products must be fully compliant with chemical legislation
- Labelling of resulting material in case of exemptions or authorisations
- Improve information flow of substances in supply chain: recyclers must get the information
- Product design: Assume 100 % recycling and avoid chemicals with problematic properties



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# Conclusions

- The only sustainable circular economy is a clean one
- Regulators and product designers must be forward-looking, avoiding potential problem chemicals
- In the interim, we must prevent hazardous chemicals re-entering the circle
  - Ensure recycled materials & remanufactured goods are properly regulated (with enforcement)
  - Improve (global) information flow on hazardous substances in finished products
  - Some materials should not be recycled
- Major risk of scandal, loss of confidence in recycled products

[Chemtrust.org/circulareconomy](https://chemtrust.org/circulareconomy)