

## Your Hedgehog Needs You To Be Their Advocate

Many consumers do not realize that most plastics are made from materials that are either carcinogenic or mutagenic.

PVC (Polyvinyl chloride) contains phthalates to make it softer and more flexible. Phthalates or phthalate esters are esters of phthalic acid mainly used as plasticizers (substances added to plastics to increase their flexibility). Phthalates have the ability to mimic hormones, which interferes with normal hormone production. This can result in reproductive issues and birth defects. For further reading, please read this informative article on [Phthalates](#).

Amber Petry is a regular contributor on our Facebook and website. Amber has a hedgehog named Splotch. Unfortunately he ate some polyester fibers from a blanket which got impacted in his bowel. By the time it was discovered, his liver was unable to filter the toxicity from the toxic fibers which caused irreparable damage. Splotch actually went blind. Soon after, he also lost his sense of smell, both from neurological issues.

Did you know that the vast majority of fleece sold in the United States is polyester? Polyester is a synthetic fiber manufactured from plastics. Please, please, please read this article for the shocking truth about fleece: [The Dirty Secret of Fleece: Microfibers and Plastic Pollution](#)








The safest plastics for repeated use are: High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE, or plastic #2), Low-Density Polyethylene (LDPE, or plastic #4) and Polypropylene (PP, or plastic #5). Polyethylene usually comes in either high-density or low-density and is considered a safe plastic for repeated use.

One of the common protests that we at Heavenly Hedgies have encountered when we recommend avoiding toxic plastics is, "It's all around us and there's no way to avoid it, so why bother?" Really?!?! As a consumer, you have a choice and you have a voice! We are charged with these incredible God-given creatures to care for and we're going to look the other way with apathy? They're already an animal that has a propensity towards cancer, but we aren't going to control that which is within our control?







We challenge each of you to stop using the polyester fleece! Stop using the PVC pipes for tunnels! Stop using plastic bins when the plastic composition is unknown! But how you ask? These products are deeply embedded into the hedgehog culture for their housing and bedding. We have put together alternate sources of fleece, tubes, and bins on the pages that follow so that it is easy for you, as the consumer, to exercise your right to choice.

Will you help us spread the word? Share this post with your hedgehog friends. Download our resource PDF and send it to hedgehog owners within your circle of influence. Let's extend their lives by making better choices.

## Safe Alternatives to PVC Tubes

	<p>30 Large Classroom-Pack Craft Roll (Size-L, 4.5 inch, 6 Colors) (Cardboard)</p> <p>If changed every 2 weeks, that's more than a one year supply for one hedgeie!</p>	<p><a href="https://amzn.to/2MMXlca">https://amzn.to/2MMXlca</a></p>
	<p>Ads Wye Corrugated 4" 45 Deg. Polyethylene</p> <p>NOTE: Please make sure your hedgeie isn't too chunky for a 4" diameter</p>	<p><a href="https://amzn.to/2SM5ly4">https://amzn.to/2SM5ly4</a></p>
	<p>Ads 90 Degree Elbow 4" Polyethylene</p> <p>NOTE: Please make sure your hedgeie isn't too chunky for a 4" diameter</p>	<p><a href="https://amzn.to/2MNWDeU">https://amzn.to/2MNWDeU</a></p>
	<p>Advanced Drainage Systems 04040010 Perforated Singlewall Pipe, 4" x 10' (Polyethylene)</p> <p>NOTE: Please make sure your hedgeie isn't too chunky for a 4" diameter</p>	<p><a href="https://amzn.to/2MPZ1Sd">https://amzn.to/2MPZ1Sd</a></p>
	<p>UNITED STATES HDW, Black BM0023 6" Corrugated Elbow (Metal)</p> <p>NOTE: Please use an edge guard to protect against injury. This one is made from polyethylene: <a href="#">Tueascallk Flexible Sharp and Rough Edge Trim Protector, Push-in Edge Shield for Steel Panels, Wood Panels, Glass and Plastic Panels, Fits 0.03"-0.045" Thickness Edge, Black, White, 32'</a></p>	<p><a href="https://amzn.to/36kyzYy">https://amzn.to/36kyzYy</a></p>
	<p>Advanced Drainage Systems 0622AA Corrugated Singlewall Pipe Wye, 6" (Polyethylene)</p>	<p><a href="https://amzn.to/2ZOVhWn">https://amzn.to/2ZOVhWn</a></p>
	<p>Imperial Manufacturing Group BM0111 6" X 24" Black Matte Stove Pipe (Metal)</p> <p>NOTE: Please use an edge guard to protect against injury. This one is made from polyethylene: <a href="#">Tueascallk Flexible Sharp and Rough Edge Trim Protector, Push-in Edge Shield for Steel Panels, Wood Panels, Glass and Plastic Panels, Fits 0.03"-0.045" Thickness Edge, Black, White, 32'</a></p>	<p><a href="https://amzn.to/2FiaGVC">https://amzn.to/2FiaGVC</a></p>

## Safe Alternatives to Polyester Fleece

 <p>ProECO ORGANIC FABRICS</p>	<p>ProECO Heavy Bamboo Fleece Fabric (Made in USA, Natural, Sold by The Yard)</p>	<p><a href="https://amzn.to/2QDSxXU">https://amzn.to/2QDSxXU</a></p>
	<p>Organic Cotton Fleece Fabric - 12 Ounce - Natural - by The Yard</p> <p>Comes in pink, blue, and lavender too</p>	<p><a href="https://amzn.to/2QHmZAe">https://amzn.to/2QHmZAe</a></p>
	<p>Cotton Flannel Fabric 45" Wide Soft Warm Comfy 10+ Colors by The Yard (Light Blue, 1 Yard)</p>	<p><a href="https://amzn.to/2tnloXn">https://amzn.to/2tnloXn</a></p>
	<p>flic-flac 20 x 20 inches (51cmx51cm) Fat Quarter Natural Cotton Quilting Fabric Thick Craft Printed Fabric High Density Bundle Squares Patchwork Lint DIY Sewing (10pcs, Blue)</p>	<p><a href="https://amzn.to/2FbbVWV">https://amzn.to/2FbbVWV</a></p>
	<p>REALTREE FLANNEL FABRIC SOLD BY THE YARD-REAL TREE COTTON FLANNEL FABRIC-REALTREE CAMOUFLAGE FLANNEL</p>	<p><a href="https://amzn.to/2QDEKR3">https://amzn.to/2QDEKR3</a></p>
	<p>Michael Miller Organic Sherpa Natural Fabric by The Yard</p>	<p><a href="https://amzn.to/2SLKtH9">https://amzn.to/2SLKtH9</a></p>

Any plastic bins used as cages or dig boxes should be made only of polyethylene or polypropylene. Most manufacturers do not reveal the composition of their plastics. Sterlite has claimed that their bins are only made of these two types of plastic: [Sterlite storage bins](#)