

Sears will phase out PVC packaging

Sears Holdings Corp. has begun phasing out polyvinyl chloride in its packaging and merchandise and has set a long-term goal of using bio-based polymers.

The Hoffman Estates, Ill.-based retailer adopted the policy to identify more sustainable alternatives for its private-label merchandise and packaging, given the potential health and environmental risks of manufacturing, using and disposing of PVC. It will show preference for PVC-free materials and encourage vendors to reduce or eliminate their use of PVC in packaging and merchandise, the company said.

The company's long-term goal includes sourcing bio-based plastics that contain more recycled content and can be reused, recycled or composted. Sears has more than \$50 billion in annual revenue and operates some 3,800 retail stores in North America.