

Jeopardy . . .

I don't know if you are a fan but recently there were 2 questions related to food that I found interesting.

Question #1

Much of this flavoring comes from *Madagascar orchids*, but scientists have figured out a way to manufacture it from?

Answer:

Of course we all know that Vanilla comes from the orchid plant and that those from Madagascar are considered the best. Who would ever have thought the vanilla we put in our cookies, cakes and ice cream is actually **PLASTIC**?



Just one more reason to always ASK what is the source of every ingredient. And, **one more reason** to read every label BEFORE you buy. Of course the label won't say PLASTIC but if it says vanillin don't buy it.

Why?

Vanillin: the compound that carries most of the smell and taste of vanilla, can be extracted naturally from vanilla beans or made synthetically.

About **85%** of vanillin is currently made from chemicals taken from fossil fuels.

Scientists from the University of Edinburgh discovered a way to reap more value from the plastic recycling process by turning post-consumer plastic into synthetic vanilla flavoring. To do this, they used genetically engineered **E. coli bacteria** that have previously been used for the synthesis of vanilla from glucose. The bacteria were shown to convert terephthalic acid (a molecule derived from a type of plastic called PET) into the high value compound vanillin.

What Is It?

Polyethylene terephthalate (**PET**) is one of the most common plastics. It's used in a variety of items from water bottles and product packaging to

baby wipes, clothing, bedding and mattresses. You'll find polyethylene terephthalate written as PET or PETE, or the recycling code #1. On clothing and textile labels, you'll find it listed as polyester.

The Problem

Making PET is an energy-intensive process. When used in the form of polyester for textiles, it uses far more energy than the manufacturing of other textiles like conventional or organic hemp and cotton, but it's sold less expensively. In the production process, emissions can severely contaminate water sources with a number of pollutants.

PET doesn't readily break down, it contributes to plastic pollution. Plastics like PET can break down into tiny pieces called micro-plastics, which are pervasive in our oceans – as well as our bays, lakes, and even drinking water. Jul 30, 2019

These particles have been found in seafood. Ouch, watch what you put in your mouth.

In addition to its issues with biodegradability, PET may pose some toxicity risks. Antimony trioxide is commonly used as a catalyst in the production process*. Antimony trioxide is classified as possibly carcinogenic, and some forms are potentially endocrine disrupting.

Researchers have found antimony at detectable levels in polyester textiles. Even at low temperatures, antimony can migrate from polyester to saliva and sweat. One study concluded that exposure to antimony through polyester could result in potential **health impacts for groups who wear polyester often and for prolonged period of times**. Keep in mind that polyester is often used in active apparel and worn at times when the wearer is sweating.

This research also raises some unanswered questions about our exposure to antimony through **polyester bedding** while we sleep. Given that we spend about a third of our lives in bed, is it possible that this is prolonged and frequent enough exposure to experience associated health impacts

from antimony? No research is available on this subject, so more study is needed.

* Once again they don't have to tell you the PROCESS. So YOU need to ask. Remember my article on Raw Cain Sugar? What is the process in making it white? BLEACH and AMONIA. Do you pour those chemicals over your food? Well the manufacturer does. Plus don't forget my article on [Blackout Drapes](#).



Did you know that plastic is actually made from the sludge that is not good enough to make gasoline for your car? It is. When they first began to separate crude oil into other products, such as gasoline, they would bury the remaining sludge in the ground.

When crops and livestock began to **die** in these areas they knew they could no longer bury it and must find another use for it. Chemists were put to work on the problem and came up with the magically new material called plastic. It could be used in liquid form or hardened into any shape you wanted.

That may have solved one problem but created a whole host of other deadly consequences. Which were perpetrated on an unknowing public. Even today most people have no idea of the dangers of plastics or its origin.

Belgian chemist and clever marketer Leo Baekeland pioneered the first fully synthetic plastic in 1907. He beat his Scottish rival, James Swinburne, to the patent office by one day. His invention, which he would christen Bakelite, combined two chemicals, **formaldehyde** and **phenol**, under heat and pressure. Oct 11, 2019

Formaldehyde, is used to embalm the dead.

Most of the **phenol** used today is produced from **benzene**, through either hydrolysis of chlorobenzene or oxidation of isopropylbenzene (cumene).

Benzene works by **causing cells not to work correctly**. For example, it can cause bone marrow not to produce enough red blood cells, which can lead to anemia. Also, it can damage the immune system by changing blood levels of antibodies and causing the loss of white blood cells.

When a company won't tell me the source of an ingredient. I tell them I understand and I am NOT asking for any priority information. Just the source of _____. I tell them I need to know because I have several allergies and must know before I purchase.

If they still won't tell me, I DON'T buy and I add them to my list of companies NOT to buy from.

We have a right to know what we are ingesting, breathing and applying to your skin.

On the lighter side . . . back to Jeopardy and . . .

Question #2

Scientists made a liquor using apples from the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone: Distillation got rid of this property the apples exhibited.



Answer: **Radioactivity**

INTERESTING: To bad we can't distill people, houses, cars and everything that comes in contact with radioactivity.

Leave it to Jeopardy to teach us something new!!!!!! By the way none of the contestants even tried to guess the answer to either question.

From your friend in the kitchen, Judy