1

 $\verb|\maxdeadcycles| [ \langle number \rangle \ parameter ]|$ 

If the value of \deadcycles exceeds the value of \maxdeadcycles, TEX assumes that the output routine has gotten into a loop. TEX then complains and runs its own simple output routine, equivalent to \shipout \box255, that is likely to break the loop. Plain TEX sets \maxdeadcycles to 25