

PCBs



polychlorinated biphenyls



ADVANCED TREATMENT TECHNOLOGIES USED BY THE SPOKANE COUNTY REGIONAL WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY ARE PART OF THE SOLUTION.

THE PCB CHALLENGE

PCBs CAN BE FOUND IN EVERYDAY PRODUCTS



paint



printing inks



clothing pigments & dyes

pesticides



old fluorescent light ballasts



lubricants & hydraulic fluids

How Do PCBs Enter the Wastewater System?

- Atmospheric deposition *RESIDUE RINSED OFF IN SHOWERS AND THROUGH HUMAN WASTE*
- Consumer products used in our homes *DYES WASHED FROM CLOTHING AND FIRE RETARDANT MATERIALS*
- Stormwater runoff *PIGMENTS FROM RECYCLED NEWSPRINT*

DID YOU KNOW?
YELLOW DYES HAVE HIGHER CONCENTRATIONS OF PCBs!

THIS IS OFTEN REFERRED TO AS "PCB-FREE".

PCB Regulatory Relationships (in parts-per-million)

Federal Allowance in Products	50 ppm
Federal Allowance in Drinking Water	0.0005 ppm
WA State Human Health Water Quality Criteria (allowable in lakes and streams)	0.00000017 ppm
Federal Human Health Water Quality Criteria (allowable in lakes and streams)	0.000000064 ppm
Spokane Tribe Water Quality Standard (allowable in lakes and streams)	0.0000000137 ppm

IMAGINE...
1 part-per-million =
1 inch in 16 miles
1 minute in two years
1 ounce in 32 tons
\$0.01 in \$10,000

WHAT CAN I DO?

Visit the PCB page at www.spokanecounty.org/water for general consumer awareness. The science community is still learning too, so stay tuned!

Be a consumer advocate for plain packaging that uses less ink since a lot of common packaging contains PCBs due to inks and dyes.

Don't rinse chemicals, solvents, oil, paints, etc. down your home drains or stormwater drains. "Only rain down the storm drain."

Learn what, why and where to dispose of hazardous waste at www.spokanewastedirectory.org.

Be aware of fish consumption advisories since PCBs can bio-accumulate in them. Allow fatty tissue to drip away when grilling/cooking.