

Love your river?

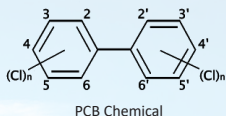
Learn more at

www.spokaneriverpcbfree.org

What are PCBs?

Polychlorinated Biphenyls —

Manufactured chemicals produced from 1935 to 1979 and most commonly found in transformers, fluorescent light ballasts, motor and hydraulic oils, window caulking, dyes, paints and more.



Persistent, Bioaccumulative and Ubiquitous — They take decades to break down in the environment. They build up in fish, animals, and humans. They are in almost every part of our environment.

Why are they an issue?

Health Effects — PCBs can have serious health effects on the immune, nervous, reproductive and endocrine (hormonal) systems in humans and animals and have possible links to cancer.

They are still produced — Though banned by the EPA in 1976, “inadvertent” production is still allowed as a manufacturing by-product.

They are in the Spokane River — PCBs enter the Spokane River via the inflow of sediments, storm and wastewater, groundwater, and atmospheric deposits.

They impact the food web of our local watershed -

PCBs are in Spokane River fish, a food source for local residents. It is of increased concern to Native Americans who have higher levels of fish consumption. Find the Department of Health fish consumption advisory at www.spokaneriverpcbfree.org (under *Educational Resources*) or www.doh.wa.gov/fish.



What Can I Do?

Long-term progress in reducing PCBs in the environment will rely on everyone's stewardship.

REDUCE the use of all hazardous substances and disposable, single-use items.

FOLLOW labeling instructions for proper use and storage.

DISPOSE of all waste properly. PCBs are found in both new and old products such as inks, dyes, paper products, clothing and paints; therefore, vigilant waste disposal is the best contribution we each can make.

VISIT the online Waste Directory which will guide you through how and where to dispose of possibly hazardous waste. Get familiar with it before you need it!

**Spokane-Kootenai
Waste Directory**

www.spokanewastedirectory.org

What is being done?

The most significant efforts in our region are by a group of city and county utilities, government agencies, businesses, and conservation groups, known as the **Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force**.

SRRTTF

Its primary purpose is to find and reduce PCBs in the Spokane River — a complex challenge.

Research

Because there is still much to be learned about the pathways and concentrations of PCBs in the river, Task Force efforts are focused on data gathering and analysis of:

- River water sampling for PCB concentrations
- Analysis of groundwater samples from industrial locations

SRRTTF also has created **Building Renovation and Demolition Guidelines** for PCB remediation for homeowners and contractors. They can be found at www.spokaneriverpcbfree.org.

Renovation & Demolition

TSCA Reform

Toxics Substance Control Act (TSCA) reform is another key component of Task Force work. They lobby to reduce hazardous substances in products and finding lower PCB alternatives.

A study was done on various consumer products to determine PCB levels. A few categories are caulks, chinks, cosmetics, and paints/dyes. Another study looked at items used by municipalities such as motor oil, road paints, and deicers. Find links to the studies at www.spokaneriverpcbfree.org on the *Where Are PCBs Found?* page.

Study: PCBs in Products



Resources and Updates – www.spokaneriverpcbfree.org
Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force – www.srrttf.org

