

PCBS IN BUILDING MATERIALS

SPOKANE RIVER REGIONAL TOXICS TASK FORCE

MYLES PERKINS

OCTOBER 2021



<https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.eslaboratory.com%2Fservices%2FPCBs-in-caulk.aspx&psig=AOvVaw3H3Vi0R0CNsWaVvZonm934&ust=1612978232805000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CA0QjhxqFwoTCNDf8aeq3e4CFQAAAAAdAAAAABAP>

AGENDA

- The Issue
- Project Background
- Goals and Objectives
- Work-to-Date
- Next Steps



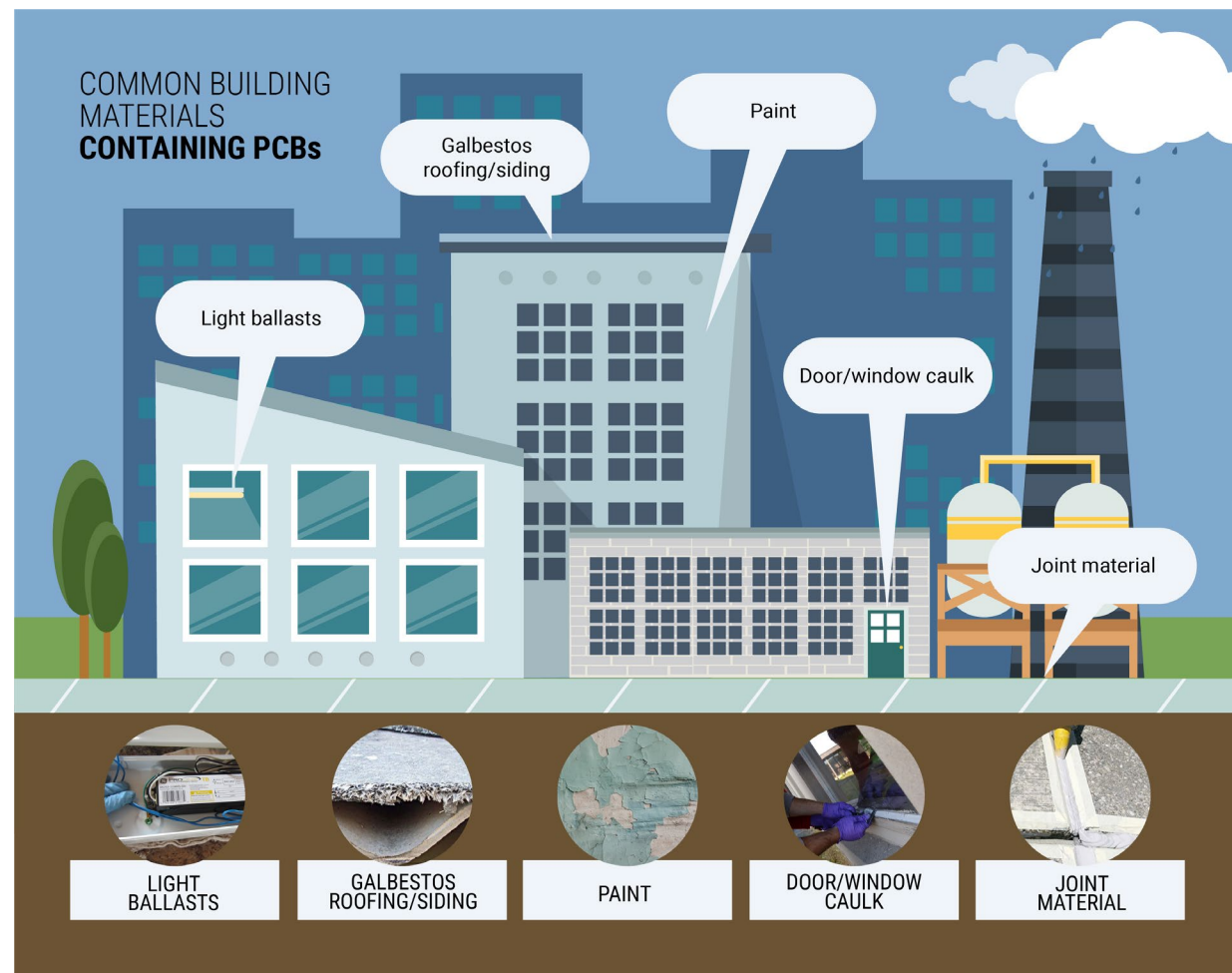
<https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=http%3A%2F%2Fecne.org%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2018%2F07%2F07-17-18-MASTER-Managing-PCBs-in-Building-Materials.pdf&psig=AOvVaw3H3Vi0R0CNsWaVVZonm934&ust=1612978232805000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CA0QjhxFwoTCNDf8aeq3e4CFQAAAAAAdAAAAABAD>

THE ISSUE

Buildings built or renovated between 1950 – 1979 may contain and release PCBs

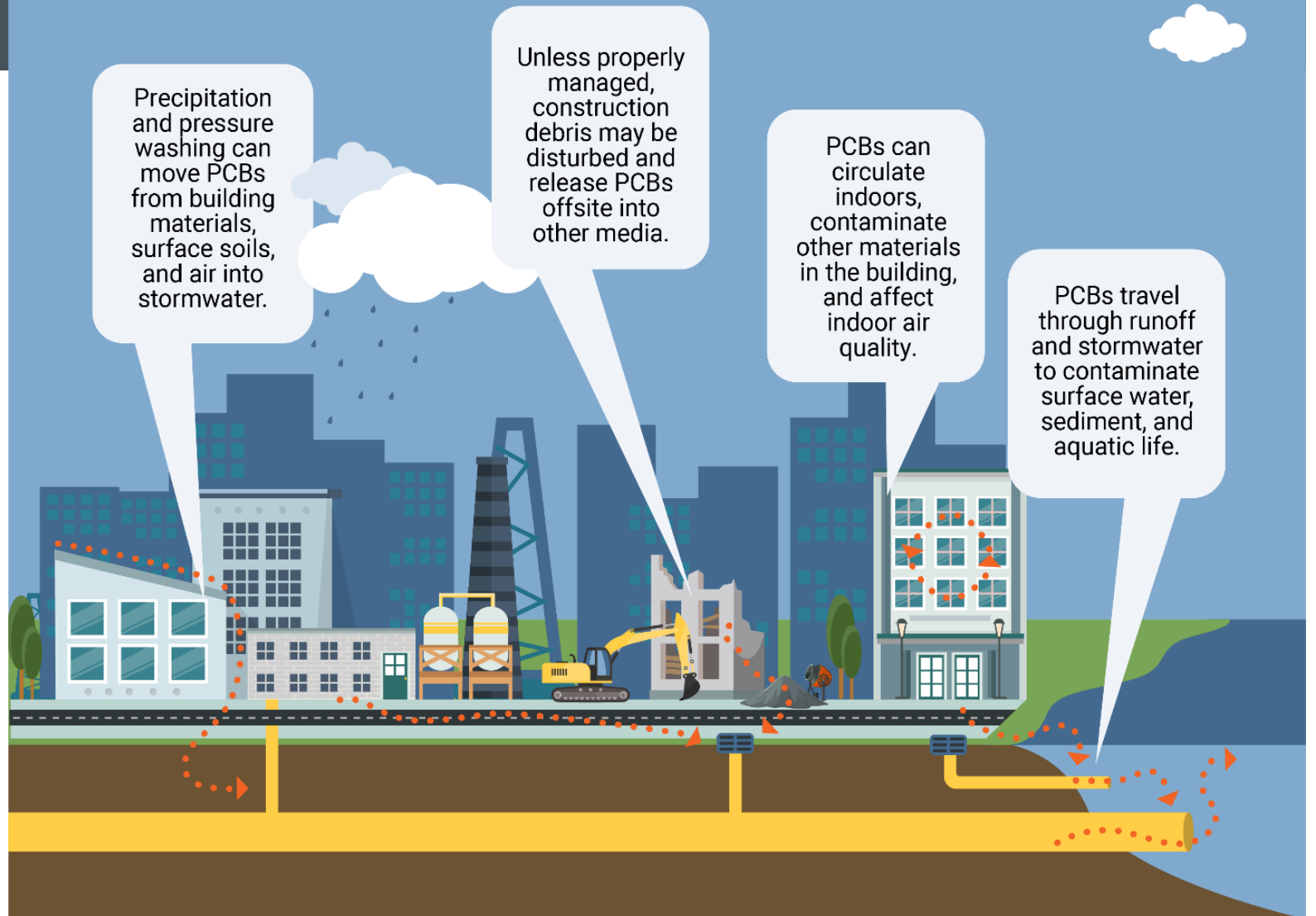
- Door and window caulking
- Paint
- Galbestos roofing and siding
- Fluorescent light ballasts
- Other forms of sealants and joint materials

Issue was highlighted in the 2015 PCB Chemical Action Plan



AFFECT ON PEOPLE AND ENVIRONMENT

PCB CONTAMINATION PATHWAYS



REGULATORY CONTEXT

Remediation waste vs. bulk product waste

- PCB remediation waste due to spills or releases are cleaned up and disposed under WA State MTCA
- PCB bulk product waste derived from manufactured products are disposed under 40 CFR 761.62 (Toxic Substances Control Act - TSCA)
 - Must address once characterized ≥ 50 ppm
 - Almost no regulatory mechanism requires owners to characterize prior to abated/renovated building materials
 - If characterized, could trigger further investigation once source is identified

Water Quality

- Unlawful for any discharges to cause pollution to waters of the state (RCW 90.48.080)
- Surface waters must be protected for their designated use, like recreation, aquatic life (WAC 173-201A)

PROJECT BACKGROUND

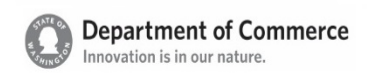
Awarded \$373K by the Puget Sound Partnership Fall 2020:

- Establish PCBs in Buildings Taskforce
- Work with EPA to promote awareness of issue

Project approved December 2020:

- Developed Advisory Committee comprised of Ecology, EPA, Seattle Public Utilities, and University of Washington Staff

PUGET SOUND National Estuary Program



ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Advisory Committee:

- Core Group – Paul Bianco (HWTR), Myles Perkins (HWTR), Mike Jeffers (SPU), Amy Leang (HWTR), Jessica Huybregts (WQ), Emily Sidley (HWTR), Huckleberry Palmer (HWTR), Valerie Cramer (HWTR)
- Larger Committee – Rachel McCrea (WQ), Richard Thomas (TCP), Kathleen Compton and Michelle Mullin (EPA RI0), Karl Rains (WQ), Sean Smith (HTWR), Elaine Snouwaert (HWTR), John Wallace (UW), Ivy Anderson (AGO)

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Develop WA State guidance for property owners to identify, characterize, remove, and dispose safely
2. Estimate the cost range to characterize and address
3. Design and propose a PCBs in Building Materials Abatement Program
 - Support local governments and property owners



EFFORT SO FAR

Narrative Review

- Investigative research and summary of impacts
- Building material identification
- Exploration of existing regulations
- EPA tools and the abatement process
- How PCBs affect local communities
- Data gaps, limitations, and next steps



EFFORT SO FAR

Focus Sheet

- Summary of impacts
- Regulations
- Interim tips for building owners

Webpage

- Shares our concerns
- Links resources
- Lets others know we are developing guidance

The screenshot shows the Department of Ecology website for the State of Washington. The page is titled "PCBs in buildings" and is part of a larger section on "Waste & Toxics". The navigation menu includes Home, Air & Climate, Water & Shorelines, Waste & Toxics, and Spills & Cleanup. The main content area features a sidebar with a list of categories, including Automotive recyclers, Batteries, Cadmium, Cleaners, Construction and demolition, PCBs in buildings (highlighted), Dentists, Dry cleaners, Electronic waste, Electroplating and metal finishing, Empty containers, Federal & military facilities, Fertilizers, Fiberglass and fiber-reinforced plastic, Lead, Lights & lamps, Mercury, Paints & coatings, and Pharmaceutical waste. The main content area has a section titled "I want to..." with three links: "Learn how PCBs in building materials are regulated in Washington", "Learn more about dangerous waste in construction and demolition", and "Read EPA's PCBs in Building Materials fact sheet". Below this is a section titled "Why were PCBs used in building materials?" with a paragraph explaining that PCBs, also known by their trade name Aroclor, were intentionally added to building materials to improve flexibility, adhesion, and durability. This is followed by a section titled "What common building materials might contain PCBs?" with a paragraph stating that buildings and structures built or renovated between 1929 and 1979 may contain PCBs, particularly in door and window caulking, paint, Galbestos roofing and siding, fluorescent light ballasts, and various forms of joint material. At the bottom, there is an illustration titled "COMMON BUILDING MATERIALS CONTAINING PCBs" showing a cityscape with callouts for "Light ballasts", "Galbestos roofing/siding", "Paint", and "Door/window caulk".

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State of Washington

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Cleaners

Construction and demolition

PCBs in buildings

Dentists

Dry cleaners

Electronic waste

Electroplating and metal finishing

Empty containers

Federal & military facilities

Fertilizers

Fiberglass and fiber-reinforced plastic

Lead

Lights & lamps

Mercury

Paints & coatings

Pharmaceutical waste

I want to...

- [Learn how PCBs in building materials are regulated in Washington](#)
- [Learn more about dangerous waste in construction and demolition](#)
- [Read EPA's PCBs in Building Materials fact sheet](#)

Why were PCBs used in building materials?

PCBs, also known by their trade name Aroclor, were intentionally added to building materials to improve flexibility, adhesion, and durability.

What common building materials might contain PCBs?

Buildings and structures built or renovated between 1929 and 1979 may contain PCBs, particularly:

- Door and window caulking.
- Paint.
- Galbestos roofing and siding.
- Fluorescent light ballasts.
- Various forms of joint material.

COMMON BUILDING MATERIALS CONTAINING PCBs

Light ballasts

Galbestos roofing/siding

Paint

Door/window caulk

NEXT STEPS

- Contract costing estimates
- Develop guidance
- Propose PCBs in Building Materials Abatement Program
 - Solidify approach to Environmental Justice component



QUESTIONS?

Myles Perkins, PE | Hazardous Waste & Toxics Reduction

WA State Department of Ecology | PO Box 330316 | Shoreline, WA 98133-9716

myles.perkins@ecy.wa.gov | Phone: 206.594.0034