

**Archdiocese of Seattle**

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# **Safety Training 2023**



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PCBs



# What are PCBs?

**Polychlorinated biphenyls** are mixtures of up to 209 individual chlorinated compounds.



Common Trade  
Name: **Aroclor**

**Polychlorinated Biphenyl Molecule**



# PCBs

- Used from 1950s through late 1970s
- Highly variable composition (<0.005% to >70%)
- Therefore, need to think about
  - Age of building
  - Date fixtures installed
  - Style of fixtures
  - Building records



# Why the concern?

Cause damage to

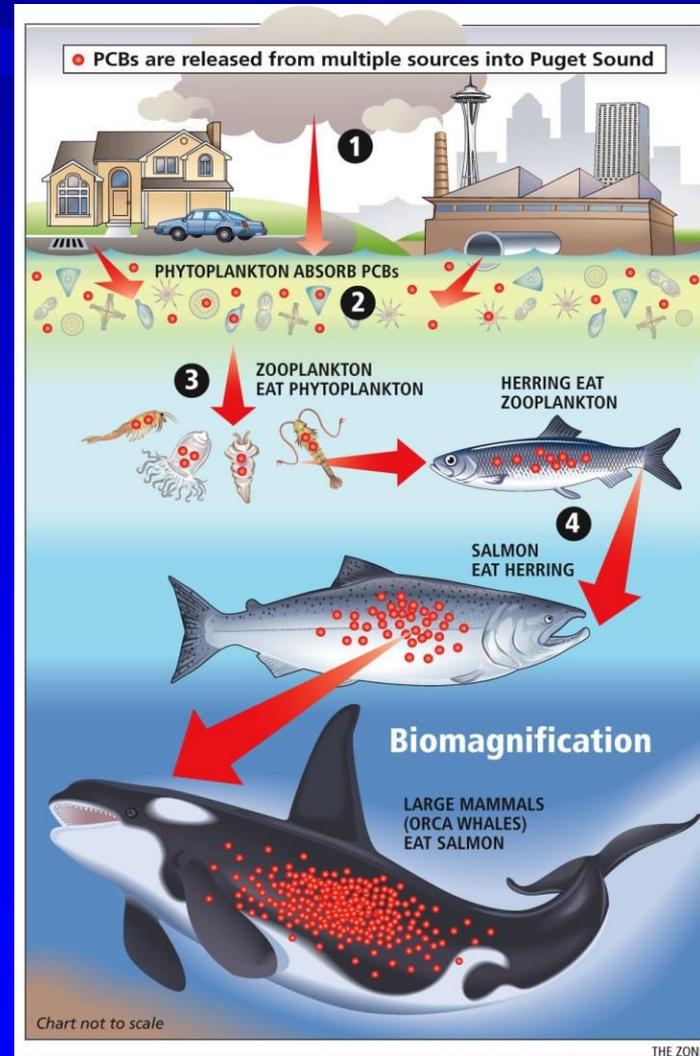
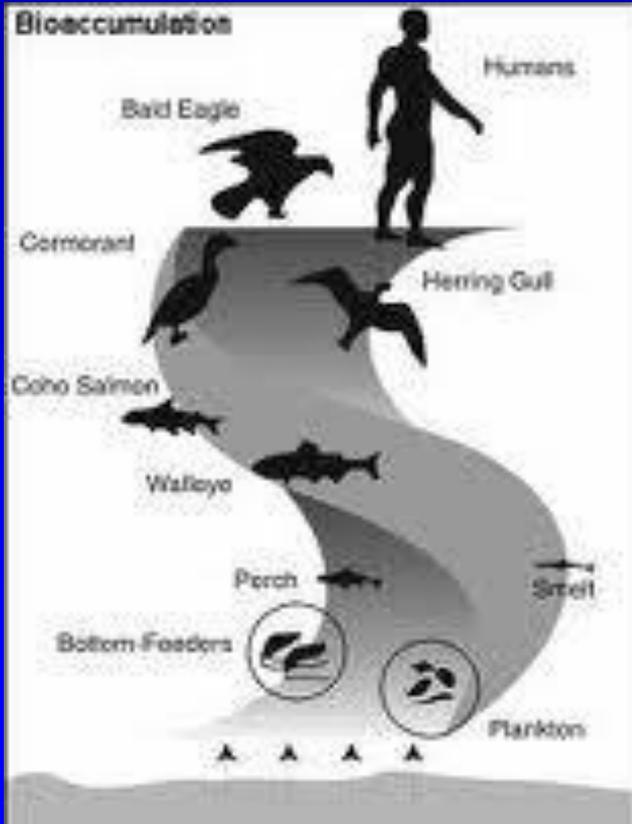
- Skin
- Liver
- Nervous System
- Immune System
- Endocrine System

Probably causes cancer in humans



# Contaminates the Environment & Accumulates

Issue is  
“Biomagnification”  
= accumulates



# How does one get exposed?

- Skin
- Inhalation
  - If material in good shape, *vapor* levels are low (not much air exposure)
- BUT
- If brittle & crumbly, *dust* can be a problem



# Where can PCBs possibly be found at our facilities?

3 general categories

- "Large" Electrical Transformers
- Light Fixture Ballasts
- Building Materials, such as caulks and paint



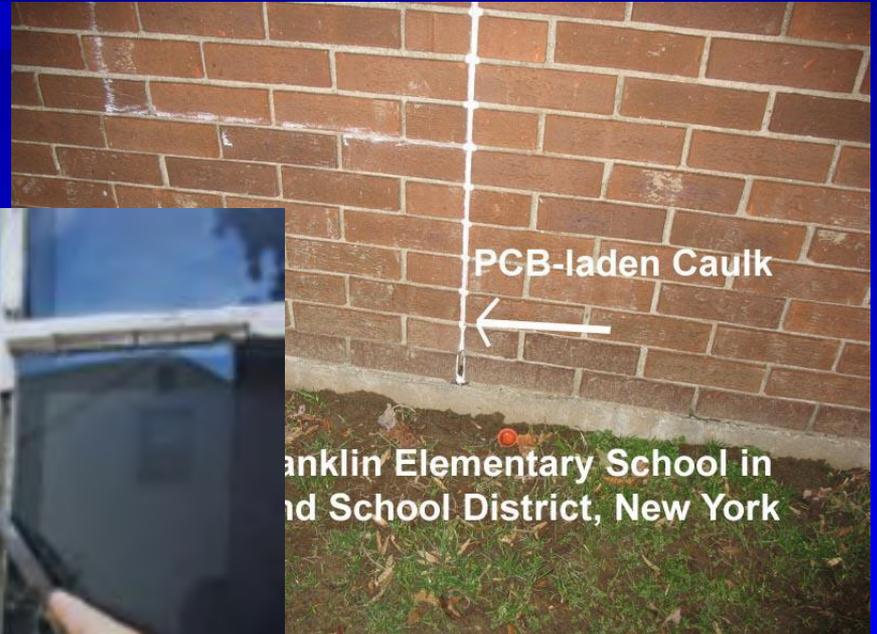
# "Large" Electrical Transformers



# Light Fixture Ballasts



# Caulks

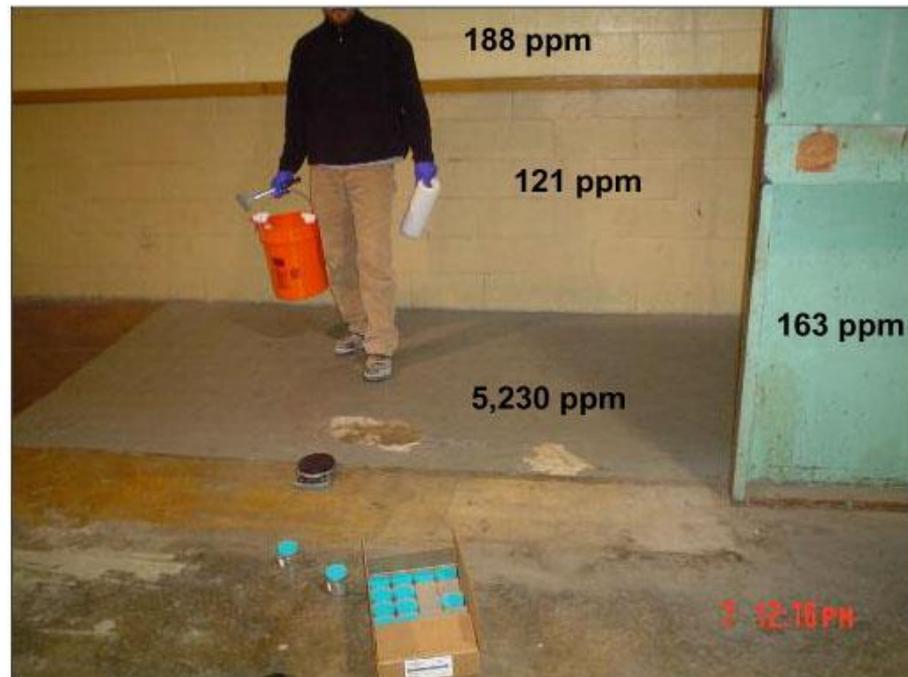


Franklin Elementary School in  
Madison School District, New York



# Paint

## PCBs in Paint



Actual site data – Different color paint samples



# What to do - Light Fixture Ballasts

- Fluorescent lighting ballasts with known or suspected PCBs must be properly recycled/disposed.



# How Do We Know If a Fluorescent Light Ballast Contains PCB's?

- Manufacturer
- Product Manufacturer's Label
- Date Manufactured
- Testing (the only sure method)

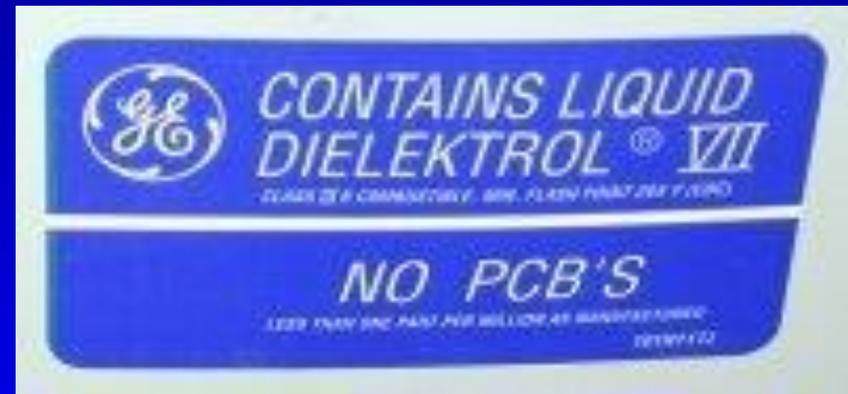
*And when in doubt implement the*

- Assumption Rule



# What to do - Light Fixture Ballasts

- Look at label



# What to do - Light Fixture Ballasts

- Burnt Ballasts



# What to do - Light Fixture Ballasts

- Leaking Ballast



# Message / Lessons Learned

- Be aware of what materials may contain PCBs
- Contact Property and Construction for help and guidance

