

# 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
- Consumer products used in our homes
- Stormwater runoff

RESIDUE RINSED OFF IN SHOWERS AND THROUGH HUMAN WASTE

DYES WASHED FROM CLOTHING AND FIRE RETARDANT MATERIALS

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)	0.000000007 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](http://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](http://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.