

# Polychlorinated Biphenyls - PCBs

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) are a broad class of manufactured organic chemicals known as chlorinated hydrocarbons. They were used in manufacturing by adding to products and materials for water and chemical resistance. PCB use started in the 1950s and was banned in 1979 because they don't break down in the environment. PCBs can accumulate in plants and food crops, along with small organisms and fish, resulting in exposure to humans through consumption. The Environmental Protection Agency allows for very limited use of PCBs if stringent guidelines are met. An enhanced regulatory focus on PCB-containing building materials includes caulking and sealants at window frames, concrete panels, and the substrates in contact with the PCBs (e.g. porous: concrete, stucco, paint, non-porous: metal frames and glass).



If a renovation or demolition is anticipated, the first step is to have a planning and design discussion. FACS is here to provide targeted inspections to locate and quantify materials, and can then assist with material removal and waste disposal considerations if PCB-containing materials are discovered.



## SERVICE OFFERINGS

- Characterize waste streams
- Determine if materials can be reused/recycled
- Identify occupational health and safety risks
- Provide substrate sampling
- Consider sub-grade site conditions
- Define testing strategies to identify PCBs and impacts to substrates, soils, and sediments
- Prepare inspection reports and work plans
- Prepare EPA submittals
- Monitor additional hazardous building materials during projects

### CONTACT

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