

Fact Sheet for Schools and Teachers About PCB Contaminated Caulk

Per the EPA, caulk containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) was used in many buildings, including schools, during building construction, renovation, or repair from the 1950s through the late 1970s.

PCBs were not added to caulk after 1978. Therefore in general, schools built after 1978 do not contain PCBs in caulk. To date it has been found in buildings in the Northeast and Upper Midwest and in joints in concrete water storage basins in the western United States. Activities to address PCBs in caulk are underway in these areas. EPA is encouraging greater awareness of this issue so people can take steps to minimize potential exposure.

Exposure to PCBs can cause a variety of adverse health effects in animals and humans. PCBs have been shown to cause cancer in animals, as well as a number of serious non-cancer health effects, including effects on the immune system, reproductive system, nervous system, endocrine system and other health effects. In humans PCBs are potentially cancer-causing and can cause other non-cancer effects as well. More information on the [health effects of PCBs](#).

As part of EPA's overall effort to provide guidance to building owners concerning PCB containing caulk in buildings, The EPA has produced best practice fact sheets and a brochure that address PCBs in caulk. These fact sheets can be found on EPA's website at: www.epa.gov/pcbsincaulk.

To go directly to the EPA fact sheet for school system officials with key information on removal and cleanup of PCBs in caulk and PCB contaminated soil and building material click below.

<http://www.epa.gov/pcbsincaulk/caulkschoolkit.htm>

Or go to the Fact Sheet for School: PCB Caulk School Checklist directly:

<http://www.epa.gov/pcbsincaulk/caulkschools2.pdf>

For further information, please contact your OSP Risk Management representative.