



Contaminate Information Sheet

PCB's Polychlorinated biphenyl

- ★ All man-made chemicals that are now banned.
- ★ Range from oily liquids to waxy solids.
- ★ Very stable (does not break down). Settles to river/lake bottom
- ★ Non-flammable
- ★ High boiling points and
- ★ Electrical insulating properties
- ★ Used for industrial & commercial applications including electrical, heating transfer, and hydraulic equipment; as plasticizers in paints, plastics & rubber products; in pigments, dyes & carbonless copy paper, & more
- ★ More than 1.5 billion pounds were manufactured in US prior to 1977.
- ★ PCB's have been linked to cancer in animals, but difficult to know if the amount found in fish would cause cancer in people. Likely carcinogenic to humans.
- ★ Chemicals build up in fish & people over the course of a lifetime, suggesting that older, larger fish have higher concentrations than younger fish. You can safely eat more meals of smaller fish that you can of larger fish.
- ★ Can cause harm to the nervous system of a developing fetus, so pregnant women, nursing mothers or women who plan to have children should pay special attention to PCB's.