

Potential Sources of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)

Although no longer commercially produced in the United States, PCBs may be present in products and materials manufactured before the 1979 PCB ban. Products that may contain PCBs include:

- Transformers and capacitors
- Other electrical equipment including voltage regulators, switches, reclosers, bushings, and electromagnets
- Oil used in motors and hydraulic systems
- Old electrical devices or appliances containing PCB capacitors
- Fluorescent light ballasts
- Cable insulation
- Thermal insulation material including fiberglass, felt, foam, and cork
- Adhesives and tapes
- Oil-based paint
- Caulking
- Plastics
- Carbonless copy paper
- Floor finish

The PCBs used in these products were chemical mixtures made up of a variety of individual chlorinated biphenyl components, known as congeners. Most commercial PCB mixtures are known in the United States by their industrial trade names. The most common trade name is Aroclor.



A typical pre-1979 PCB-containing fluorescent light ballast (FLB)



A typical Non-PCB containing fluorescent light ballast. The ballast has a "No PCBs" marking on the top of the ballast and the text "electronic ballast". Only magnetic fluorescent light ballasts contained PCBs.