

PCBs



polychlorinated biphenyls

FYI for Sewer Users



THE HAYDEN AREA REGIONAL SEWER BOARD RECYCLE WATER PLANT DOES REMOVE SOME OF THE PCBs WHILE TREATING WASTEWATER.

The "PCB Regulatory Paradox".

While EPA allows PCB levels up to 50 ppm in products, Federal PCB water quality regulations allow only 0.000000064 ppm for any wastewater discharge

PCB Regulatory Relationships (in parts-per-million)

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Federal Allowance in Products | 50 ppm |
| Federal Allowance in Drinking Water | 0.0005 ppm |
| ID State Human Health Water Quality Criteria (allowable in lakes and streams) | 0.00000019 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 |

THIS IS OFTEN REFERRED TO AS "PCB-FREE".

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

THE PCB CHALLENGE

PCBs CAN BE FOUND IN EVERYDAY PRODUCTS



How Do PCBs Enter the Wastewater System?

- Atmospheric deposition → RESIDUE RINSED OFF IN SHOWERS AND THROUGH HUMAN WASTE
- Consumer products used in our homes → DYES WASHED FROM CLOTHING AND FIRE RETARDANT MATERIALS
- Stormwater runoff → PIGMENTS FROM RECYCLED NEWSPRINT

DID YOU KNOW?
 YELLOW DYES HAVE HIGHER CONCENTRATIONS OF PCBs!

What can I do?

Visit the PCB page at www.harsb.org 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.

Learn what, why and where to dispose of hazardous waste at www.kcgov.us/departments/solidwaste/hazmat.asp.