

## What are Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)

A group of man-made organic chemicals that were manufactured from 1929 to 1979. Due to their non-flammability, chemical stability, high boiling point, and electrical insulating properties, they were used in hundreds of industrial and commercial applications. These include:

- Transformers and capacitors.
- Electrical equipment eg. voltage regulators, switches, re-closers, bushings, and electromagnets.
- Old electrical devices or appliances containing PCB capacitors.
- PCB emissions from the burning of copper cables.

## Why Protect Yourself?

Lack of maintenance of older electrical equipment, illegal dumping of PCB waste and burning of PCB equipment in landfills may expose us to these chemicals by contaminating our food sources and air.

The major dietary sources of PCBs are from fish, meat, and dairy products. PCBs can also accumulate in plants and food crops. As a result, people who have ingested animals or produce may be exposed to PCBs that have bioaccumulated in these food sources.

PCBs have demonstrated effects such as cancer in animals and other negative effects on the immune, reproductive, nervous and endocrine systems.

# Start Living POPs FREE

Want to further reduce your exposure to PCBs?

Contact the following in your area for guidance on how to combat these pollutants.

Environmental Management Authorities

Waste Management Agency

Local Recyclers

Electrical / Power Generating Company



Learn More Today! [stopthepops.com](http://stopthepops.com)



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Development and Implementation of a Sustainable Management Mechanism for POPs in the Caribbean  
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Safeguard yourself from

# PCBs

Polychlorinated Biphenyls



If you live or work near sites where PCB oils have been used or stored (such as power generation stations or transformer storage sites) you may be exposed to **Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)** called **Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)** and not even know it.

# Common Exposure Pathways



## Transformer Oils

Exposure is possible due to direct contact with contaminated PCB oils such as transformer oil.



## Copper Cables

Avoid the burning of copper wires and direct inhalation of emissions. Children should not play in areas where copper wire burning is practiced.



## Food Source Contamination

Eating livestock reared on or near potentially contaminated sites (power stations or transformer storage areas) can lead to the indirect consumption of contaminants due to bioaccumulation in animals from grazing.

# STOP THE POPs!

Identify, Learn & Act!



**The truth is, danger lurks where you least expect it.**

Understanding the Dangers of PCBs

### Identify

The sources and uses of POPs/UPOPs.



### Learn

How you and your family are exposed and affected.



### Act

By minimising your exposure.

[www.stopthepops.com](http://www.stopthepops.com)

## HOW TO REDUCE EXPOSURE

Follow these tips to protect yourself:

- ✓ Discourage children from playing with old appliances, electrical equipment or transformers, since they may contain PCBs. Burning sites (copper wire burning, landfill/dumps, and transformer storage sites/power stations) can also pose a health threat.
- ✓ Avoid the burning of copper wires as this can lead to direct inhalation of poisonous emissions.
- ✓ Avoid consumption of meat/fish from potentially contaminated areas as PCBs can bioaccumulate in animals.

**Electrical and power generating sector:**

- ✓ Practice proper storage, handling, and securing of PCB oils to avoid environmental and human contamination (including wearing Personal Protective Equipment).



**THE MORE YOU KNOW**



**THE HEALTHIER YOU CAN GROW**