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EWG Analysis of PCB Contamination in Schools

Thousands of American schools may be contaminated with unsafe concentrations of toxic polychlorinated biphenyls leaching from caulk, sealants and other aging building materials and fixtures.

PCBs, manufactured from the 1920s to the 1970s, were once used as insulators for electrical equipment, oils for hydraulic systems and motors, solvents, and components of fluorescent light fixtures.

These chemicals can cause a variety of health problems, including cancer, harm to the immune system, neurological damage, learning deficits, lowered birth weight and decreased thyroid hormone function.

Sen. Edward Markey, D-Mass., has calculated that up to 30 percent of American children in elementary, middle and high school may still be exposed to these dangerous industrial chemicals, despite a 1979 ban by the Environmental Protection Agency.

According to data provided to Markey's office by the EPA, which was also analyzed by EWG, over the past 10 years, the federal agency has received 286 reports of potential PCB contamination in school buildings in 20 states. These incidents ranged from the removal of a single fluorescent light fixture to large-scale remediation undertaken by some of the nation's largest school districts. In addition to schools, EPA reports also include colleges and universities where PCBs have been found.

This PDF document represents the EPA regional summary submitted in response to Sen. Markey's inquiry. The PDF contains information for those schools in a given EPA region where PCBs were detected. Please note that many states have not yet tested for PCBs in schools. Most school buildings constructed between the 1950s and the late 1970s are highly likely to test positive for these chemicals, potentially endangering the health of students and teachers.

Region 1 Summary of PCB Issues in Schools, August 2016

Project Name	State	Product Media	Status	Approval Date
Achievement First - Former Martin Luther King School	CT	Caulk, Masonry, Paint, Soil	Approved- Completion Report outstanding	4/24/2013
Achievement First-Amistad Academy	CT	Caulk, Masonry	Complete	5/7/2010
Berlin High School	CT	Caulk, Masonry	Approved- Completion Report received May 22, 2014. Not closed	7/16/2012
Bolton HS (Phase1)	CT	Caulk, Masonry, Soil	Approved. Completion Report outstanding	8/2/2010
Bolton HS-Windows (Phase II+III)	CT	Caulk, Masonry, Other	Approved. Completion Report outstanding	5/9/2011
Bowen Field Complex	CT	Caulk, Masonry, Paint, Soil	Approved- Completion Report Received May 4, 2016. Under review	10/15/2014
Broad Brook Elementary School	CT	Unknown	Informational from CTDEEP re renovation project	
Bugbee Elementary School	CT	Vinyl wall baseboard	Informational Only. To be removed and disposed of under 40 CFR § 761.62. No approval required.	
Carrington Elementary School	CT	caulk, paint	Performance-based disposal under 761.62. Complete as school was demolished.	
Chatfield ES	CT	Caulk, Masonry, Other	Complete	6/25/2010
City of Bridgeport - Central High School	CT	Caulk, Masonry, Soil	Approved Work started July 10, 2015. Modification to Notification requested August 2, 2016	5/6/2014
City of Danbury - Mill Ridge School	CT	Caulk, Masonry	Performance-based disposal under § 761.62. No approval required.	
City of Danbury - Stadley Rough Elementary School	CT	Caulk	Performance-based disposal under § 761.62. No approval required.	
City of New Haven - New Haven Academy School	CT	Caulk, Masonry	Approved- Completion Report outstanding	5/20/2014

City of Stamford Dolan Middle School	CT	Caulk	No Action Required - PCBs < 50 ppm to be addressed under CTDEEP Regulations
Cloonan Middle School	CT	Caulk	Performance-based disposal under § 761.62. No approval required.
Columbus Elementary School - Phase 1	CT	Caulk, Masonry, Soil	Project Complete. LTO&M ongoing.
Columbus Elementary School - Phase 2	CT	Caulk	Project Complete. LTO&M ongoing.
CT Tech - Bristol	CT	Caulk	No Action Required - PCBs < 50 ppm to be addressed under CTDEEP Regulations
CT Tech - Bullard-Havens	CT	Caulk	No Action Required - PCBs < 50 ppm to be addressed under CTDEEP Regulations
CT Tech - Ellis	CT	Caulk	No Action Required - PCBs < 50 ppm to be addressed under CTDEEP Regulations
CT Tech - Grasso	CT	Caulk	No Action Required - PCBs < 50 ppm to be addressed under CTDEEP Regulations
CT Tech - Obrien	CT	Caulk, Liquid, Masonry, Soil	Approved Completion Report for soil received November 8, 2013. Building abatement work began June 17, 2014
CT Tech - Platt	CT	Caulk	No Action Required - PCBs < 50 ppm to be addressed under CTDEEP Regulations
CT Tech - Vinal	CT	Caulk	Interim Measures.
CT Tech - Whitney Tech	CT	Caulk, Other	Approved- Completion Report outstanding
CT Tech - Wilcox Tech	CT	Caulk, Masonry, Soil	4/19/2010
CT Tech - Windham	CT	Caulk, Other	Interim Measures.
CT Tech - Wolcott	CT	Caulk	Interim Measures.
Discovery Academy	CT	Caulk, Masonry, Soil	3/27/2013
East Hampton High School	CT	Caulk	Performance-based disposal under § 761.62. No approval required.
East Shore Middle School	CT	Caulk, Masonry, Other, Paint	Approved- Completion Report outstanding
Enfield High School	CT	Caulk, Paint and Mastic	Complete. Removed all PCBs >/= 1 ppm
Fairfield Public Schools - Ludlowe High School Phase 2	CT	Caulk, Soil	Approved- Work ongoing

Fairfield Public Schools - Ludlowe High School Phase 3	CT	Caulk, Masonry	Approved- Work ongoing	12/10/2015
Fairfield Public Schools - Riverfield Elementary School	CT	vapor barrier	CAFO	8/7/2014
Fairfield Public Schools-Riverfield Elementary School	CT	Caulk, Masonry, Paint	Complete	7/22/2014
Former Hill-Central Music Academy	CT	Caulk, Masonry, Soil	Complete	4/15/2010
Greenwich High School - MISA Phase II&	CT	Soil	Approved. Completion Report outstanding	1/16/2014
Greenwich High School - Overall Site	CT	Soil	Review in Progress. Waiting for response to EPA/CTCCEP comments	9/7/2011
Guildford High School	CT	Caulk, Masonry, Soil	Complete	5/29/2013
Hanover Elementary School	CT	Caulk, Masonry	Approved- Completion Report outstanding	8/24/2011
Highland Park Elementary School	CT	Caulk	Approved- Completion Report outstanding	4/26/2011
International Baccalaureate East Wing	CT	Caulk, Masonry, Soil	Complete	9/8/2011
Irving A. Robbins Middle School	CT	Caulk	Verbal notification of renovation project. PCBs < 50 ppm to be addressed under CTDEEP Regulations	
John C. Clark Elementary School	CT	Other, Paint	School vacated. Future use unclear.	
John Wallace Middle School	CT	Caulk, Paint	Performance-based removal/disposal. No approval required.	
Joseph A Foran HS	CT	Caulk	Complete	7/20/2011
Lyman Hall High School	CT	Adhesive	Informational Only-Plan to be submitted	
Lyme Consolidated School	CT	Caulk	No Action Required - PCBs < 50 ppm to be addressed under CTDEEP Regulations	
Martin Kellogg Middle School	CT	Paint	No Action Required - PCBs < 50 ppm to be addressed under CTDEEP Regulations	
MD Fox School	CT	Caulk	Complete	8/24/2011
Meadowsides Elementary School - Portable Classroom Building	CT	Caulk	Performance-based disposal under § 761.62. No approval required.	
Meeting House Hill School (200 Wing and 100/300)	CT	Caulk	Complete	3/15/2011
Meeting House Hill School (400 wing)	CT	Caulk	Complete	7/13/2010

Middlebrook Elementary School	CT	Exterior Caulk, Masonry, Soil	Air and wipe samples below EPA ELEs. Response to EPA comments outstanding
Mile Creek School - Regional School District No. 18	CT	Caulk, Masonry	Complete
Nathan Hale Elementary School	CT	Caulk, Masonry, Soil	Approved. Completion Report outstanding
Naugatuck Valley Community College	CT	Caulk	Informational Only. Building space usage TBD for submittal of PCB plan. Indoor Air samples below EPA ELEs
New Canaan Public Schools - Saxe Middle School	CT	Masonry, Paint	Approved. PCB abatement ongoing.
Newington High School	CT	Caulk, Masonry, Paint	Approved. PCB paint work on-going
Newington High School - Vocational Wing	CT	Caulk, paint	Informational Only
North Stonington MS	CT	Caulk, Masonry	Building to be demolished in 2019
Northwest Catholic High School	CT	Caulk, Masonry, Soil	Approved. Completion Report outstanding
Orville H. Platt High School	CT	Caulk, Masonry, Other, Paint, Soil	Complete
Osborn Hill Elementary School - classroom and hallway plan	CT	Caulk, Masonry, Soil	Approved. Completion Report outstanding
Portland Public Schools - Brownstone Intermediate Window Replacement Project	CT	Caulk, Masonry	Complete
Quinnipiac University - Student / Alumni Hall	CT	Caulk, Masonry, Soil	Complete
Rocky Hill High School (1981 Construction)	CT	Caulk	Informational Only
Roosevelt Elementary School	CT	Caulk, Masonry, Soil	Complete
Rowayton Elementary School	CT	Caulk, Masonry, Soil	Complete
Sandy Hook School	CT	Caulk, Masonry, Paint, Soil	School demolished
Southington Public Schools - JFK Middle School	CT	Caulk, Other	Approved. Completion Report outstanding
Southington Public Schools - Joseph A. Depaolo Middle School	CT	Caulk, Other	Approved. Completion Report outstanding
Stratfield ES (Fairfield Public Schools)	CT	Caulk, Masonry	Complete
Tomlinson Middle School	CT	Caulk	No Action Required - PCBs < 50 ppm to be addressed under CTDEEP Regulations

Town of Glastonbury - Gideon Welles School	CT	Caulk	Approved- phase II began June 16, 2016. Estimated finish August 15, 2016	7/24/2014
Town of Salem - Salem Elementary School	CT	Caulk, Masonry	Approved- Completion Report outstanding	5/17/2012
Town of Wethersfield - Wethersfield HS	CT	Caulk	Approved- Received the Completion Report for Phases II and V.	9/30/2013
Town of Wilton - Miller Driscoll Elementary School	CT	Caulk, Masonry, Soil	Approved- PCB abatement work on-going	9/10/2015
University of Bridgeport - Barnum Hall Weston High School	CT	Liquid, Masonry	Approved. Services deferred due to contracting issue	6/15/2011
Weston Middle School	CT	Caulk, Masonry	Approved. Services deferred due to contracting issue	7/30/2013
Windsor Locks Public Schools - Windsor Locks High School	CT	Caulk, Masonry, Soil	Approved. Completion Report outstanding	2/17/2015
Yale University - Kline Chemistry Laboratory Renovation	CT	Caulk, Masonry	Approved. Completion Report received. Deed Notice Outstanding	12/11/2012
Yale University - Kline Geology Lab	CT	Caulk	Approved. Completion Report Received June 2, 2014. Awaiting information on clean room PCB abatement (July 25, 2016)	9/20/2011
Quinnipiac Elementary School	CT	Mastic, Tile	Informational	
Daycare Center-Wilbur Cross High School	CT	Mastic, Tile	No Action Required - PCBs < 50 ppm to be addressed under CTDEEP Regulations	
Amherst College-Merrill Science Building	MA	Soil	No Action Required - PCBs < 50 ppm to be addressed under state regulations	
Ayer Shirley Regional High School	MA	Caulk, Masonry	Approved. Completion Report outstanding	6/27/2014
Berkshire Community College	MA	Caulk, Soil	Approved. Work on-going	6/29/2016
Bridgewater State University	MA	Caulk, Other	Verbal notification of renovation project. PCBs < 50 ppm to be addressed under state regulations	
Brockton Public Schools - Brockton High School	MA	Caulk, Masonry, Soil	Approved. Interim Completion Report Received. Work not completed.	7/3/2012

Brockton Public Schools - Downey Elementary School	MA	Caulk, Masonry	Approved. Completion Report outstanding	7/3/2012
Burke Elementary School	MA	Caulk, Masonry, Other	Approved and PCB abatement completed but Completion Report outstanding. Under LTO & M	10/5/2012
Cape Cod Community College - Nickerson Cape Cod History Archives Renovations	MA	Caulk, Masonry	Approved. Completion Report outstanding	5/1/2013
Central Catholic HS	MA	Caulk, Masonry, Other	Complete	8/5/2011
Central Catholic HS	MA	Caulk, Masonry, Other	Complete	7/6/2010
DCAM - Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts - Bowman Hall	MA	Caulk, Masonry	Approved. Completion Report reviewed December 21, 2015. Deed Notice outstanding	2/25/2014
Fisher Elementary School	MA	Caulk	Complete	1/20/2011
Hampshire College - Merrill and Dakin Student Life Centers	MA	Caulk, Masonry	Approved. Comments sent on long-term monitoring plan and Deed Notice August 19, 2015. Awaiting response	7/9/2015
Harvard - 125 Western Ave w/Addendum #1	MA	Caulk, Masonry	Approved and Project Completed. LTO&M ongoing. Deed Notice outstanding	5/12/2011
Harvard - 58 Oxford St	MA	Caulk, Masonry	Approved and Project Completed. LTO&M ongoing. Deed Notice outstanding	11/14/2011
Harvard University - Medical School Quad	MA	Caulk	Complete	4/13/2011
Harvard University - Peabody Terrace	MA	Caulk, Masonry, Soil	Approved and Project Completed. LTO&M ongoing. Deed Notice outstanding	4/3/2012
Harvard University - Peabody Terrace	MA	Caulk, Masonry, Soil	Approved and Project Completed. LTO&M ongoing. Deed Notice outstanding	7/3/2012
Harvard University - Peabody Terrace	MA	Caulk, Masonry, Soil	Approved and Project Completed. LTO&M ongoing. Deed Notice outstanding	4/15/2010
Harvard University - Peabody Terrace	MA	Caulk, Masonry, Soil	Approved and Project Completed. LTO&M ongoing. Deed Notice outstanding	5/3/2011
Harvard University - Pound Hall Partial Demolition	MA	Caulk, Masonry	Complete	1/26/2012
Harvard University William James Hall Roof	MA	Caulk	Approved and Project Completed. LTO&M ongoing. Deed Notice outstanding	4/17/2014
Harvard University-Smith Campus Center	MA	Caulk, Masonry	Approved. PCB abatement work on-going	10/28/2015

Helen H. Hansen Elementary School	MA	Caulk, Soil	Approved. Completion Report received August 25, 2015	10/17/2014
Leominster High School	MA	Caulk, Masonry	Approved. Completion Report, Deed Notice and long-term monitoring plan outstanding. Letter requesting documents sent April 18, 2016	4/12/2012
Martin Luther King Jr - Amigos School	MA	Caulk, Masonry, Soil	Approved. Completion Report outstanding	7/16/2014
Melican Middle School	MA	Glazing on 1 window and indoor air below EPA ELEs	Informational Only. EPA request to school regarding status of PCB abatement of glazing.	
MIT Lincoln Labs	MA	Caulk	Caulk removed. Approval outstanding for encapsulated surfaces	
Mount Wachusett Community College	MA	Liquid, Other	Plan to be submitted for electrical rooms	
New Bedford High School	MA	Other, Paint	Approved. PCB abatement work completed.	6/27/2011
New Bedford High School - Mechanical Room GW	MA	Soil	Groundwater remediation to add VOCs. Once the GW stable will submit plan to address PCBs	
North High School	MA	Caulk, Masonry, Paint, Soil	Complete	2/7/2012
North Reading Public Schools - North Reading Middle School	MA	Caulk, Masonry	Approved. Completion Report outstanding	5/30/2014
Northern Essex Community College	MA	Caulk, Masonry, Soil	PCB abatement work conducted. Partial completion report submitted.	
Richard J Murphy School	MA	Caulk, Soil	Complete	7/29/2010
Runkle Elementary School	MA	Caulk	Performance-based disposal under 761.61(b). Complete	
Rupert Nock and Edward Molin Middle School Renovation Project	MA	Caulk, Masonry	Performance-based disposal under § 761.62	
Salem Library Phase 1 Pre-Demolition Caulk Abatement Study	MA	Caulk	Complete	4/13/2011
Sherwood Middle School	MA	Caulk	Complete	1/16/2013
Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical High School	MA	Caulk, Masonry, Soil	Approved. Completion Report outstanding	2/26/2013

Spring Street Elementary School	MA	Caulk, Masonry, Soil	Approved. Received Completion Report December 29, 2015. MMIP and Deed Notice outstanding	6/29/2012
The College of Holy Cross - Fieldhouse Vault	MA	Liquid, Masonry, Soil	Complete	8/4/2014
Thomas Prince School	MA	Caulk, Masonry	Approved. Completion Report outstanding	2/21/2012
Town of Canton Public Schools - Hansen Elementary School	MA	Caulk	Complete	4/25/2014
Town of Lexington - Estabrook Elementary School	MA	Caulk	Complete	8/18/2011
Town of Lexington - Estabrook Elementary School	MA	Caulk	Complete	12/1/2011
Town of Lexington - Jonas Clarke Middle School	MA	Caulk	Approved. PCB abatement work on-going	4/13/2016
Town of Newton - Horace Mann Elementary School	MA	Caulk	Complete	8/13/2012
Town of Westford - Colonel John Robinson School	MA	Caulk, Masonry, Soil	Approval. Completion Report received July 25, 2016. Under review	9/4/2014
Town of Westford - Norman E. Day School	MA	Caulk, Masonry	Approved. PCB work on-going	3/1/2016
Town of Weston - Field Elementary School Part 1	MA	Caulk, Masonry	Approved	8/22/2012
Town of Weston - Field Elementary School Demolition	MA	Caulk, Masonry	Approved	6/26/2014
Town of Westport High School	MA	Caulk	Informational Only. All caulk contained < 50 ppm PCBs	
UMASS - Amherst Southwest Concourse	MA	Caulk	Approved. Deed Notice outstanding. Will be filed when all UMass work complete. LTO& M on-going	8/27/2010
UMASS - Boston Utility Vault	MA	Liquid, Masonry	Approved.	2/4/2011
UMass - Dickinson House Roof Replacement	MA	Caulk	Deed Notice outstanding. Will be filed when all UMass work complete. LTO& M on-going	
UMASS - Grayson and Field Houses	MA	Caulk, Masonry	Approved. Deed Notice outstanding. Will be filed when all UMass work complete. LTO& M on-going	5/2/2012
UMASS - LRGCC	MA	Caulk	Complete	6/22/2007
UMASS - LRGCC	MA	Glazing	CAFO. PCB abatement work begun.	6/20/2012

UMASS - Physical Plant Building	MA	Caulk, Masonry	Approved. Deed Notice outstanding. Will be filed when all UMass work complete. LTO& M on-going	10/19/2012
UMASS - Webster House	MA	Caulk, Masonry, Other	Approved. Deed Notice outstanding. Will be filed when all UMass work complete. LTO& M on-going	7/5/2011
UMASS Brown Bathroom Project	MA	Caulk	Approved. Deed Notice outstanding. Will be filed when all UMass work complete. LTO& M on-going	
UMASS Lowell - McGauvran Hall	MA	Caulk, Masonry, Soil	Approved	9/17/2014
UMASS Southwest Residential Area	MA	Caulk, Masonry	Deed Notice outstanding. Will be filed when all UMass work complete. LTO& M on-going	
UMASS Tobin Hall Concrete Deck	MA	Caulk, Masonry, Soil	Approved. Deed Notice outstanding. Will be filed when all UMass work complete. LTO& M on-going	8/27/2010
UMASS, Amherst, Chenoweth Laboratory, Rm 219	MA	Caulk	Complete	2/28/2012
UMASS, Amherst, Chenoweth Laboratory, Rm 325/327	MA	Caulk, Other	Complete	6/25/2010
UMASS, Amherst, Dubois Library	MA	Caulk	Approved. Deed Notice outstanding. Will be filed when all UMass work complete. LTO& M on-going	3/1/2010
UMASS, Lowell - University Crossing Project	MA	Caulk, Masonry	Complete	4/8/2010
Wellesley College - Whitin Observatory	MA	Caulk, Soil	Approved and Project Completed. LTO&M ongoing.	10/2/2012
Wellesley High School	MA	Caulk, Other, Soil	Complete	7/1/2010
Westport Middle School	MA	Caulk, Masonry	Complete	2/19/2010
Williams College, Stetson Hall	MA	Caulk, Paint, Unknown	School moved. Building currently vacant	6/28/2012
Worcester Public Schools	MA	Caulk, Masonry, Soil	Complete	7/22/2011
	MA	FLBs	All FLBs removed	

Worcester State University-The Learning Resource Center	MA	Caulk	Approved. Draft Deed Notice received - March 24, 2016, MMIP received March 28, 2016	8/10/2012
Colby College	ME	Caulk	Complete	10/7/2010
Lake Region HS	ME	Caulk, Masonry, Soil	Complete	12/13/2010
Maine School District #55- Sacopee Valley High School	ME	Caulk, Masonry	Approved. CWP reviewed June 9, 2016	11/24/2015
South Portland High School	ME	Caulk, Paint	Complete	8/8/2013
University of Maine - Field House Renovations	ME	Caulk, Masonry	Complete	8/26/2013
University of Maine - Stewart Commons Building	ME	Caulk, Masonry, Soil	Complete	6/15/2011
University of Maine - Waneta Blake Library	ME	Caulk, Masonry, Soil	Completion Report received June 26, 2013.	7/27/2012
University of Maine at Machias - Powers Hall	ME	Caulk, Masonry	Deed Notice outstanding. LTO&M ongoing.	
University of Maine at Machias - Powers Hall	ME	Soil	Approved. Comments on MMIP sent out May 18, 2016, Environmental Covenant comments sent out January 26, 2016	10/17/2014
University of Maine at Presque Isle-Wieden Hall	ME	Caulk, Masonry	Approved. Comments on MMIP sent out May 18, 2016, deed notice comments sent out January 26, 2016	8/19/2015
University of Maine-Stewart Commons-Soil Removal and Metal Decontamination	ME	Other, Soil	Review in Progress. Waiting for response to EPA comments	
University of Southern Maine - Anderson and Upton Halls	ME	Caulk, Soil	Completed- LTO&M ongoing.	6/29/2011
University of Southern Maine - Anderson and Upton Halls Soil Remediation	ME	Soil	Complete	4/2/2012
Concord School District - Conant Elementary School	NH	Caulk, Soil	Complete	8/2/2012
Concord School District - Dewey School	NH	Paint	Approved. Completion Report outstanding	6/4/2014
UNH - Estuarine Lab	NH	Caulk, Soil	Approved. Completion Report received April 2011. UNH under review-Not closed	3/1/2010
UNH - Field House	NH	Caulk	Approved and Project Completed. LTO&M ongoing.	12/16/2010

UNH - Stillings Dining Hall	NH	Caulk, Masonry, Soil	Approved. Completion Report received December 28, 2011. Draft Deed Notice received July 8, 2015UNH under review-Not closed	7/26/2011
UNH Parsons Hall	NH	Caulk, Masonry, Soil	Complete	3/2/2011
Bishop Keough High School	RI	FLB release	PCB impacted room temporarily closed until asbestos abatement work is conducted	
Rhode Island Mayoral Academy	RI	Liquid	Complete	6/29/2010
University of Rhode Island - Fogarty Hall	RI	Caulk, Masonry	Information Only. Under renovation but PCB plan outstanding	