


# HOW YOU SAMPLE MATTERS

The cleanup rules are based on "as-found" concentrations of PCBs. **That means samples must be collected before the material is disturbed.** Stockpiles may be sampled if they were already in place at the time of site investigation or characterization.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SELF-IMPLEMENTING CLEANUP OPTION

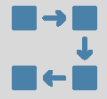
There are very specific requirements for site characterization sampling:




**3-meter sampling grid**



**Sample size and procedure**  
 (§761.286)



**Specific laboratory methods (extraction methods) (Part 761, Subparts N and O)**



**Number of samples**  
 (§761.283)

Any deviation from the procedures of self-implementing cleanup under 761.61(a) requires approval from EPA under 761.61(c). If the characterization deviates from the regulations, the self-implementing cleanup and disposal option is not applicable

# QUESTIONS? CALL THE EPA.



Call the EPA for questions prior to conducting assessments that may involve PCB remediation waste.



Contact your EPA Regional PCB Coordinator early – as soon as you think you might have or know you have PCBs on your site. You can find contact information for your EPA Regional PCB Coordinator at:



[www.epa.gov/pcbs/program-contacts](http://www.epa.gov/pcbs/program-contacts)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

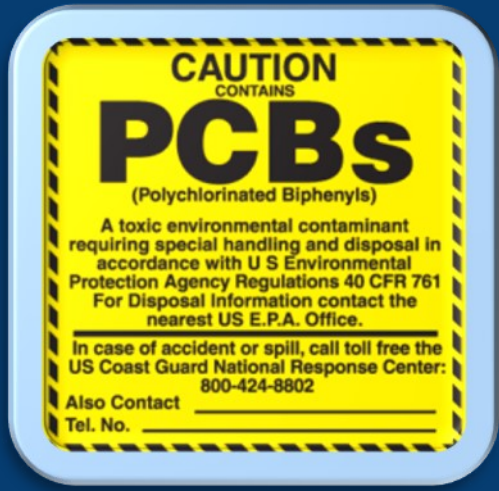
Visit the following websites:

<https://www.epa.gov/pcbs>

PCB Facility Approval Streamlining Toolbox (PCB FAST)

<https://www.epa.gov/pcbs/pcb-facility-approval-streamlining-toolbox-fast-streamlining-cleanup-approval-process>

EPA provides checklists to help with the notification (for self-implementing cleanups) and the cleanup application (for risk-based cleanups).



# Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)

## GUIDE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS



December 2019

(This is a generalized depiction, see 40 CFR Part 761 for full detail.)

# DO YOU HAVE PCB REMEDIATION WASTE AT YOUR SITE?

Even if the spilled material is <50 ppm, it may still be regulated as PCB remediation waste.

## 761.61 (a) Self-Implementing Cleanup

- Must notify the EPA
- Specific sampling requirements
- Can send PCB remediation waste <50 ppm to Subtitle D landfill

## 761.61 (b) Performance Based Disposal

- Not required to notify the EPA
- Must remove all waste with PCB levels above 1 ppm
- Must send to an approved TSCA facility (PCB landfill or incinerator) or decontaminate according to 761.79.

**For any questions, call the EPA.**

**START**

Do the samples have PCB levels of  $\geq 50$  ppm?

**YES**

**PCB REMEDIATION WASTE**

There are 3 cleanup options, each with specific sampling and disposal requirements.

## 761.61 (c) Risk Based Cleanup and Disposal

- Must obtain EPA approval for site-specific sampling, cleanup and disposal plan
- EPA approval depends on plan posing no unreasonable risk to health or environment
- Can send PCB remediation waste <50 ppm to Subtitle D landfill

**NO**

Did the spill occur after 1978?\*

**YES**

Was the source **BOTH** authorized for use **AND** <50 ppm?

**YES**

**NOT PCB REMEDIATION WASTE**

- No federal cleanup or disposal obligations under TSCA\*\*
- Check your state environmental agency for state requirements

**NO**

**NO**

\* If the spill was between January 1978 and July 1979, then see 40 CFR §761.3 or call the EPA.  
 \*\* In situations of unreasonable risk, the EPA may require cleanup of pre-1978 releases. The disposal requirements of §761.61 apply in all cases (see 40 CFR §761.50(b)(3)).