



QUICK FAQ ABOUT PCBs IN SCHOOLS

1/ Why should you be concerned about PCBs?

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has put PCBs on their list of the top 10 most toxic chemicals. Exposure to PCBs can cause serious health risks, especially in developing children. PCBs can migrate out of their original location, even if the source material (caulking, light ballast, etc.) is not disturbed, leading to a constant off-gassing of the dangerous material.

2/ Why is PCB testing important?

PCB testing is the only way to know for certain if the students and teachers in a school are at risk for exposure to PCBs, which are probable carcinogens that were banned by the EPA in the late 1970s.

3/ How does Baron & Budd test for PCBs?

Baron & Budd hires companies that are experienced in PCB testing to go to the schools and test the source material for PCBs. Generally this is the caulking around doors and windows. We do not offer air testing because air quality can change from day to day, depending upon ventilation and cleanliness. We are only offering to test schools built between 1950 and 1980, since PCBs were not used after this time.

4/ How much will it cost the school to conduct initial testing for PCBs?

There is absolutely no cost to the schools. Baron & Budd will pay for all of the costs.

5/ What are possible remedies if PCBs are found?

If PCBs are found in a sufficient density to warrant concern, then complete removal of the source material is the only way to prevent exposure. Removing PCB-contaminated material, however, can be very expensive. Schools are the victims in this situation, as most were unaware that dangerous PCBs were being used in construction materials. They did not create this problem. It may be possible to file a lawsuit against the U.S. manufacturer of PCBs, Monsanto, in order to get compensation for this remediation. Baron & Budd was one of the first law firms in the nation to file a lawsuit against Monsanto seeking funds to remove PCBs from contaminated schools.

6/ What to do next

Contact Baron & Budd at 1.866.364.6376 or email receptionist@baronbudd.com to arrange a free PCB test. The request for testing must be made from a school district administrator.

Note: The recommendation offered here to have the school's administration contact Baron & Budd is being made with the intention of providing initial testing for any school whose administration so requests. Such advice is not being made with the intent to have any person convince the school to employ Baron & Budd for legal representation.