



Types of Contaminants Found in the Environment

The table below lists some environmental contaminants, where they are found, and how they come in contact with the human body.

Contaminant	Air	Consumer Products	Dust	Food	Soil	Water	Examples of where it is found
Lead	X	X	X		X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - leaded paint/lead dust still in older homes - imported jewelry, toys - lead soldered water pipes - leaded gas, banned in some countries
Mercury		X		X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - large predator fish (swordfish, shark, blue fin, tuna) - fluorescent light bulbs - thermometers - car switches
Outdoor Pollution	X						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - car/diesel exhaust - fuel combustion - burning of garbage or materials containing harmful chemicals - industrial air releases
Poly Chlorinated Biphenyls (PCB's)	X			X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - transformer cooling oil (now banned) - stored in fat of some fish
Second Hand Smoke	X						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - tobacco industry products (cigarettes) - the smoke that is exhaled by smokers
Ultraviolet (UV) Radiation	X						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the sun's rays (even on cloudy days) - artificial tanning beds - some industries (nuclear)
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's)	X	X					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - burning fossil fuels - fumes from solvents like paints and paint thinners - fumes from new carpets, cigarette smoke, hair spray, nail polish and new cars
Pesticides	X			X	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - fruits/vegetables - pesticides travel from farm fields, golf courses and parks to other destinations - used for pest control in houses and apartments, as well as indoor plants and gardens, lawns and pets
Polycarbonate (Bisphenol A)  PC		X					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - hard or rigid plastics - baby bottles, lining of food and pop cans - CD's, DVD's, electronics
Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC)  V	X	X					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - vinyl off-gasses from childrens toys (soft, floating type), shower curtains, plastic tablecloths - also known as "toxic plastic"
Phthalates	X	X					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - childrens soft toys, medical equipment, flooring and packaging, plastic food wrap, paints, lubricants, car interiors - shampoos, cosmetics, often listed under fragrances in ingredient list
Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDE)	X	X	X		X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - used as flame retardants and heat stabilizers in many plastics including computers, appliances, furniture, furniture covers, foam, car interiors - also known as the "new PCB"