

# FACT SHEET ABOUT PCBs (POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS)

## What are PCBs?

The term PCB is a generic name for all types of fire-resistant synthetic insulating liquid, which are sometimes combined with polychlorinated benzenes. They are a group of 209 different compounds, which are man-made chemicals with no smell. They are clear yellow, only liquids that don't easily burn.



## WHERE CAN PCBs BE FOUND?

PCBs may be present in product and materials especially those manufactured before PCBs were banned in 1979 such as:

- Transformers and Capacitors
- Electrical equipment such as voltage regulators, switches, bushings, electromagnets, e.t.c
- Fluorescent light ballasts
- Cable insulations
- Adhesives and tapes
- Plastics ■ Oil based paints ■ Carbonless copy paper

## RISK OF EXPOSURE TO PCBs

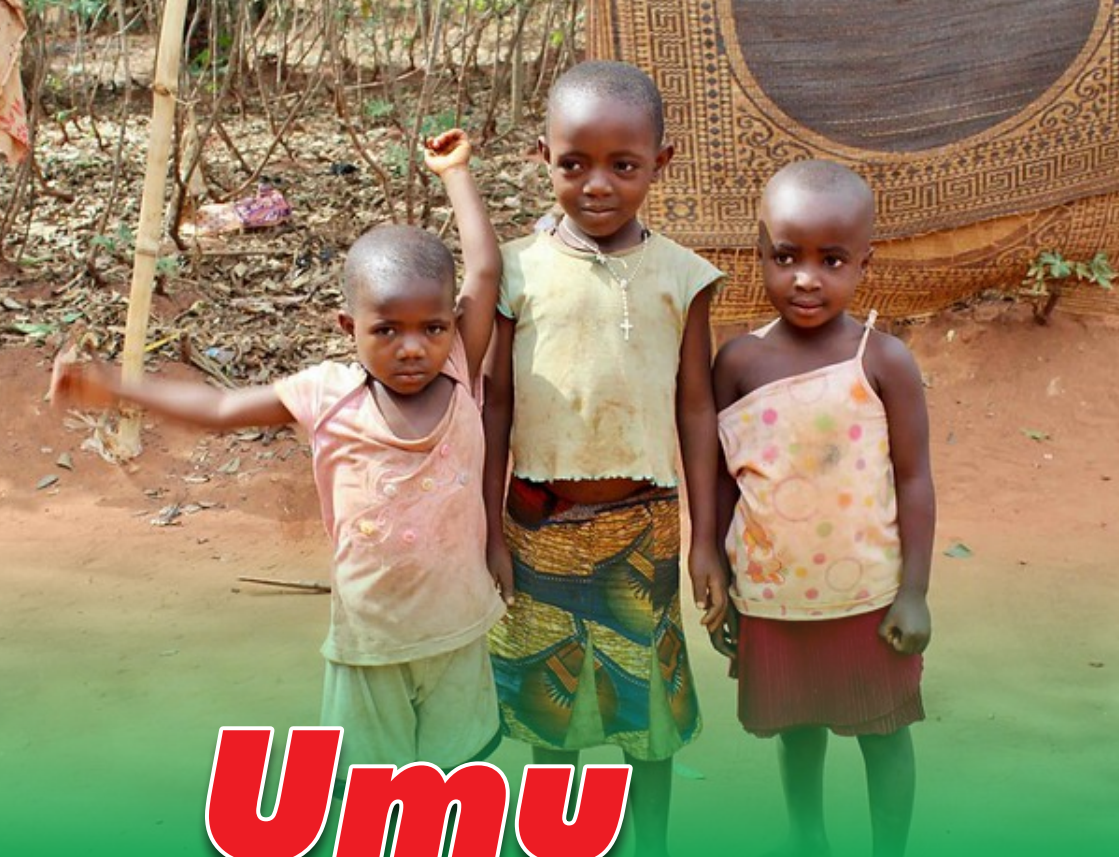
- PCBs can be associated with the disruption of the reproductive, endocrine, immune and nervous systems
- PCBs can accumulate in the environment. Although they break down very slowly, they can be carried along distances in the air, in rivers, lakes and oceans
- PCBs can build up over time in the fat of humans and animals
- PCBs can build up (Magnify) along food chain. For example, Bigger fishes can have high PCB concentration when they consume smaller fishes and planktons
- PCBs can be absorbed rapidly through the skin and cause internal injuries such as liver damage
- Prolong contact with the skin can cause skin lesion/rash.
- Boiling or burning of PCB products generates toxic fumes that may be injurious to health if inhaled
- PCBs can cause long-lasting contamination of the soil and water supplies
- because they are non-biodegradable in nature.
- PCBs may cause cancer in humans.



## A Publication of :

### THE ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL OF POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT

Apartment A, 2nd Floor, Green Building,  
Federal Ministry of Environment,  
14, Aguyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja



# Umu Ntakiri

Bu oganiru obodo anyi  
Ka anyi chekwaba ha site na ihu na ha  
ana ha eguru egwu na mpahara n' manu  
ojo a bu **PBC** nke n'eweta otutu ajooria  
di iche iche.



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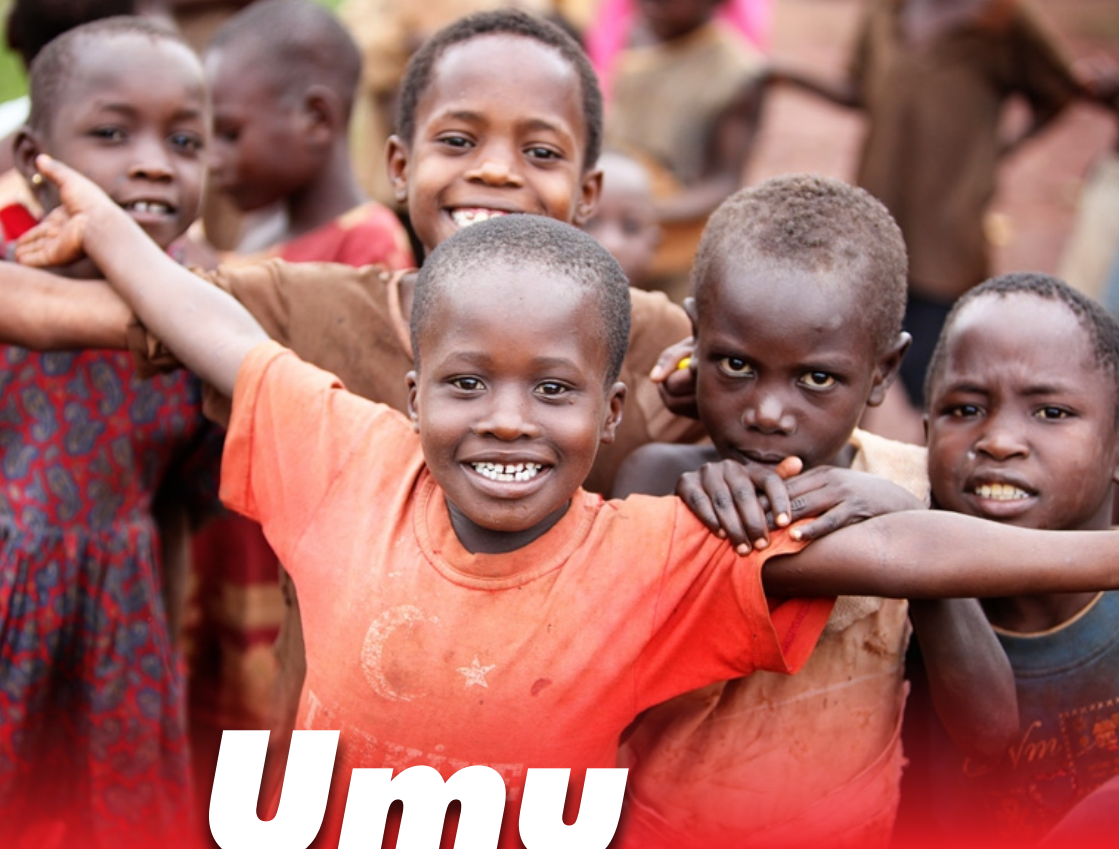


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## HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF?

- Check all equipment containing PCBs regularly for any signs of leakages or damage.
- Spillage of PCBs is always a danger when equipment is to be transported. PCBs should be transported in sealed containers.
- Report leakages immediately.
- Do not farm near transformer locations
- Ensure you do not use PCB oils for cooking or frying domestic food
- The sign for PCBs must be displayed on their containers and on vehicles transporting them to warn authorities and bystanders.

When you see the following label, know it contains PCBs



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## FACT SHEET

### ABOUT PCBs (POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS)

## *What are PCBs?*

PCBs (Polychlorinated Porphenyls) is a generic name for about 209 different synthetic chemicals consisting of Carbon hydrogen and chlorine atoms.

They are tasteless and odourless fire-resisting, synthetic, insulating liquid with high boiling point and range in consistency from an oil to a waxy solid.

## WHERE CAN PCBs BE FOUND?

- PCBs are used in capacitors and transformer as a dielectric fluid.
- Appliances older than 1978 are more likely to contain PCBs.
- PCBs are also used in hundreds of commercial applications including heat transfer, and hydraulic equipment.
- They are utilised as plasticizers in paints, plastics, and rubber products, in pigment dyes, and carbonless copy paper.
- PCBs may be present in old fluorescent light fixtures.



## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- PCBs can accumulate in the environment. They break down very slowly and can be carried a long distance in the air, in rivers, lakes and other water bodies.
- PCBs can build up over time in the fat of humans and animals
- PCBs can build up (Magnify) along food chain. For example, Bigger fishes can have high PCB concentration when they consume smaller fishes and planktons
- PCBs can be absorbed rapidly through the skin and cause internal injuries such as liver damage
- Prolonged PCB contact with the skin can cause lesions and rashes.
- Boiling or burning of PCB products generates toxic fumes that may be injurious to health if inhaled.
- PCBs can cause long-lasting contamination of the soil and water supplies because they are non-biodegradable in nature.
- PCBs may cause cancer in humans.



# WETIN DEM TAKE FRY THAT AKARA?

*Make sure say no be  
PCB Oil... ooh!*

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**PCB OIL IS DEADLY!** 

**DO NOT**

- Use To Fry Akaraiyam
- Use To Preserve Fish
- Farm Near Transformers
- Use As Body Cream
- Use As Hair Sheen
- Play with Capacitors

**NIGERIA POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS (PCBs)**

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# Opo ninu awon epo ti a fi n din **Akara Ati Isu**



***Ni ki n se ojulowo epo,  
nitori won ni ohun oloro  
Eyi ti o le fa aarun jejere,  
Nitorina ri wipe ojulowo epo lo fi n dana  
Jawo ninu rira epo olowo tasere***

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# KO LATI GBA TABI RA ALOKU ERO AMUNAWA!

*Ero amunawa ti o ba ti ju odun 1975 lo,  
Ti ni epo PCB ti o le se jamba fun agbegbe wa  
Ati ilera omo eniyan.*



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# *Do Not Farm Near Transformer Installation!*

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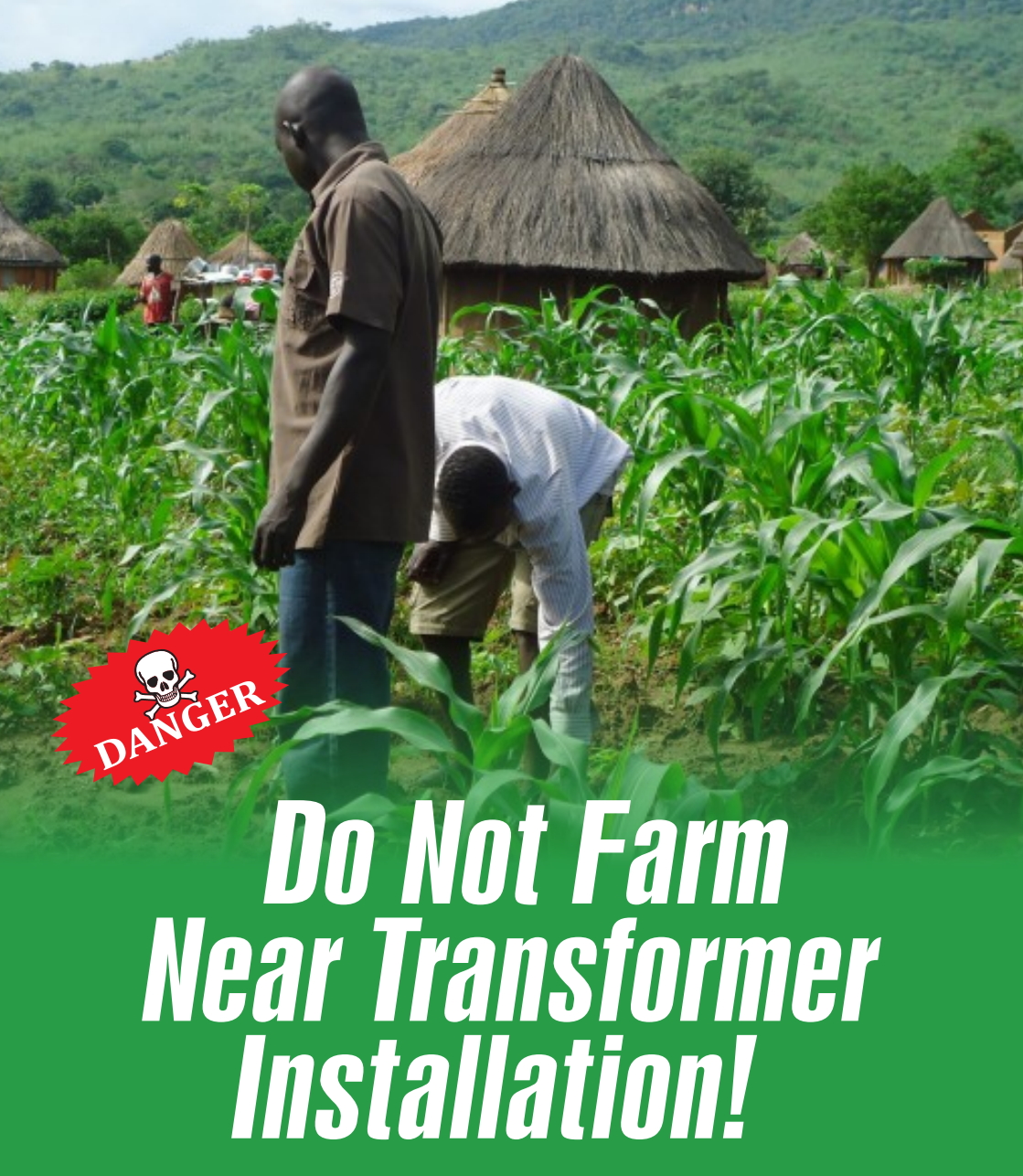


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# AWON OMO WA NI OJO OLA WA

*E je ki a daabobo won  
Kuro lowo awon ohun elo bi ero  
amunawa To le se jamba fun won.*



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