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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **REPRINT FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS WALL STREET JOURNAL DATED 9/29/09**

#### **EPA TELLS SCHOOLS TO TEST AGING CAULK**

According to the EPA, "Hundreds of school buildings across the US have caulk around windows and doors containing potentially cancer-causing PCBs. EPA recommends testing for PCBs in peeling, brittle, cracking, and/or deteriorating caulk in schools and other buildings that were built or renovated between 1950 and 1978. The caulk should be removed if PCBs are found at significant levels".

Caulk is a flexible material used to seal gaps around windows, doors, vents, and expansion joints on walls and floors. Caulk in buildings constructed prior to 1978 can contain high levels of PCBs. Levels as high as 6-10% PCBs (60,000 - 100,000 ppm) have been documented in some Northeast United States schools. Where caulk is damaged, adjacent floor/ground surfaces, including soil, should also be sampled.

In the interim, prior to testing, the EPA recommends the following procedures:

1. Don't sweep with dry brooms or use dusters in places near caulk that might contain PCBs and clean frequently with a wet or damp cloth.
2. Clean air ducts, improve ventilation by opening windows and use exhaust fans and vacuums equipped with HEPA filters.
3. Wash hands with soap and water often, especially before eating or drinking and wash children's toys.

The EPA has set up a PCBs-in-caulk hotline at 1-888-835-5372 and a website, [www.epa.gov/PCBSincaulk](http://www.epa.gov/PCBSincaulk)

PCBs are toxic by inhalation and ingestion as well as absorbed through the skin. PCBs are classified as a suspect human carcinogen. Adverse health effects from PCB exposure have been documented to the immune system, reproductive system and to the liver.

**Accredited Environmental Technologies, Inc. (AET) is experienced and can assist school districts in the sampling and decision-making associated with this cancer-causing agent. More information about AET can be found on our website at [www.aetinc.biz](http://www.aetinc.biz) or by contacting Mr. Harris Brody, CIH, CHMM in our corporate office at 610-891-0114 or 1-800-969-6AET.**