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Polybrominated Diphenyl Ether

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Polybrominated Diphenyl Ether*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C125231.

A mixture of synthetic solids, containing aromatic rings connected by an ether bond and containing one or more bromine atoms, that is virtually insoluble in water but is soluble in fat and various organic solvents and have been used in industrial applications as flame retardants. These compounds are being phased out of industrial use because of their environmental persistence and potential hormone-disrupting effects in humans. The primary routes of potential human exposure to polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) are ingestion, inhalation, and dermal contact either for personnel associated with the manufacture or recycling of PBDEs or for people exposed to domestic products containing these chemicals.