



# GE Consumer & Industrial Lighting

1975 Noble Road  
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## PCB-Containing Fluorescent Lamp Ballasts




### What are PCBs?

Polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, are a group of industrial chemicals that were widely used before 1979 as insulators in electrical equipment. Use and disposal of PCBs is federally regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Toxic Substances and Control Act (TSCA).

### How can I tell if a ballast manufactured by GE Lighting contains PCBs?

All high-power-factor fluorescent lamp ballasts manufactured by GE Lighting prior to May 1977 include a small metal capacitor (an electronic device used to store an electrical charge) that contains approximately 10 grams of PCB fluid. The capacitors in our fluorescent lamp ballasts manufactured after January 1, 1979, do not contain PCBs. Ballasts manufactured between May 1 977 and January 1, 1979, may include either type of capacitor. To find out if your GE Lighting ballast contains PCBs, look for the two-letter date code that's stamped into the mounting feet at one end of the fluorescent ballast, and then check the chart below to find the month and year of manufacture. Ballasts manufactured after January 1, 1979, do not contain PCBs. If the ballast was manufactured between May 1977 and January 1, 1979, look additionally for the catalog number on the label attached to the top of the ballast. If the catalog number contains a "W," the ballast does NOT contain PCBs. (Ballasts manufactured after January 1, 1979, have "No PCB" printed on the label.)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1965	AA	BA	CA	DA	EA	FA	GA	HA	JA	KA	LA	MA
1966	AB	BB	CB	DB	EB	FB	GB	HB	JB	KB	LB	MB
1967	AC	BC	CC	DC	EC	FC	GC	HC	JC	KC	LC	MC
1968	AD	BD	CD	DD	ED	FD	GD	HD	JD	KD	LD	MD
1969	AE	BE	CE	DE	EE	FE	GE	HE	JE	KE	LE	ME
1970	AF	BF	CF	DF	EF	FF	GF	HF	JF	KF	LF	MF
1971	AG	BG	CG	DG	EG	FG	GG	HG	JG	KG	LG	MG
1972	AH	BH	CH	DH	EH	FH	GH	HH	JH	KH	LH	MH
1973	AJ	BJ	CJ	DJ	EJ	FJ	GJ	HJ	JJ	KJ	LJ	MJ
1974	AK	BK	CK	DK	EK	FK	GK	HK	JK	KK	LK	MK
1975	AL	BL	CL	DL	EL	FL	GL	HL	JL	KL	LL	ML
1976	AM	BM	CM	DM	EM	FM	GM	HM	JM	KM	LM	MM
1977	AN	BN	CN	DN	EN	FN	GN	HN	JN	KN	LN	MN
1978	AP	BP	CP	DP	EP	FP	GP	HP	JP	KP	LP	MP
1979	AR	BR	CR	DR	ER	FR	GR	HR	JR	KR	LR	MR
1980	AS	BS	CS	DS	ES	FS	GS	HS	JS	KS	LS	MS
1981	AT	BT	CT	DT	ET	FT	GT	HT	JT	KT	LT	MT
1982	AU	BU	CU	DU	EU	FU	GU	HU	JU	KU	LU	MU
1983	AW	BW	CW	DW	EW	FW	GW	HW	JW	KW	LW	MW
1984	AX	BX	CX	DX	EX	FX	GX	HX	JX	KX	LX	MX
1985	AY	BY	CY	DY	EY	FY	GY	HY	JY	KY	LY	MY
1986	NA	OA	PA	RA	SA	TA	UA	VA	WA	XA	YA	ZA
1987	NB	OB	PB	RB	SB	TB	UB	VB	WB	XB	YB	ZB

-  Contains 10 grams of PCB fluid
-  May contain either type of capacitor
-  Does not contain PCBs

## **How do I dispose of a PCB-containing fluorescent lamp ballast?**

PCB-containing ballasts may be restricted from disposal in a normal landfill. If disposal is restricted, please go to [www.lamprecycle.org](http://www.lamprecycle.org) for a list of national lamp and ballast recyclers. Under federal regulations, leaking PCB-containing ballasts may not be disposed of in a landfill; they must be disposed of or recycled in an approved facility. However, it is unusual for a capacitor to leak PCBs. Even if the ballast overheats and leaks the potting compound (a black tar-like substance used to protect the capacitor), the PCB-containing capacitor itself usually will not leak.

Capacitors containing less than 3 pounds of PCB are exempted by the EPA from federal regulations, and small numbers of them may be disposed of in a sanitary landfill. The capacitors included in GE Lighting fluorescent ballasts are well below this limit. Therefore, intact non-leaking ballasts may be sent to such landfills, provided there are no state or local regulations to the contrary. Some states completely ban the disposal of PCB-containing ballasts in landfills, or limit ballast disposal to small quantities.

The potting compound used to protect the capacitors in these ballasts is a mixture of asphalt and sand. Test data on some ballasts indicates that the potting compound may contain low levels of PCBs in the asphalt. If the potting compound contains greater than 50 PCB parts per million (ppm), ballasts must be disposed of or recycled in an approved facility. If more than a pound (454 grams) of PCB fluid is released within a 24-hour period into the environment, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) requires that you notify the EPA National Response Center. If you are disposing of large numbers of PCB-containing ballasts, disposal or recycling in an approved facility is strongly recommended.