Mirex Encyclopedia Article

Mirex

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Mirex

An organic compound that was manufactured for use as an insecticide against imported **fire ants** and, secondarily, as a fire retardant for **plastics**, **rubber**, paint, paper, and electrical products. It has a molecular weight of 545.59 and consists of twelve **chlorine** atoms attached to a ten **carbon** cage. Its full name is dodecachloro-octahydro-1,3,4-metheno-1H -cyclobuta[c,d]pentalene. The United States **Environmental Protection Agency** (EPA) has classified it as a **carcinogen**. Mirex can be degraded to the toxic **pesticide Kepone** in the **environment**. Due to discharges from manufacturing facilities in the state of New York, it is found in the water, sediments, and biota of Lake Ontario at levels of concern.

See Also

Cancer; Great Lakes; Toxic Substance