

A Circle of Poison: Mercury Pollution from Cars

Where is the Mercury in Cars?

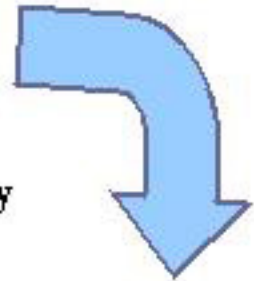
Mercury can also be found in HID headlights & some dashboard lights



87% of the mercury in cars is found in convenience switches like those under the hood and trunk

12% is in ABS brake systems

Crushing



There are approximately 1,500lbs of mercury in Maine's cars



Air born mercury released in the smelting process travel back to Maine and is deposited here in our rain and snowfall.



Cars are crushed at auto scrap facilities and sent to be shredded

Polluting



Electric arc furnaces which smelt cars are the largest source of mercury air emissions in the U.S.

Shredding



When an auto is shredded

*7% of the cars mercury is released directly to air,
*40% is sent, along with the non-metal, fluffy waste, to a landfill where it can escape directly into the air.

*40% is sent, along with the baled scrap metal to an electric arc furnace to be smelted.

Smelting

