The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) has recognized 12 chemicals or classes of chemicals as Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). All twelve are Cl-bearing.

- Benzo(a)pyrene
- Naphthalene
- Hexachlorobenzene
- 1,2,6,8-tetrachlorodibenzofuran

Several are air pollutants and water pollutants. Several are the most toxic part of petroleum. Benzene, toluene, and ethyl-benzene are, with TCE, the most common organic pollutants collectively called the BTX component. The BTX component is benzene, toluene, and xylene are present in gasoline and other waters are thus especially problematic. Alcohols (e.g., ethanol, methanol) are produced from sugar cane, corn, and other grains. Other alcohols are produced in wine, and liquor. It is produced from sugar cane, corn, and other grains.

Dioxins and furans (e.g., 1,4,6,9-dioxin) and hexachlorobenzene (HCB, further downstream) are seemingly the least toxic. Of the many dioxin compounds, the 2,3,7,8 tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin is the most toxic. Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) are among the most toxic air pollutants. Chlorofluorocarbon-12 (CFC12) is a chlorofluorocarbon and is the most common pollutant detected at Superfund sites. Tetrachloro-ethylene is a solvent used in dry cleaning and is thus a widespread pollutant. Trichloroethylene, tetrachloroethylene, and trichloroethane are transformed to and is the most common pollutant detected at Superfund sites. Tetrachloroethylene is a solvent used in dry cleaning and is thus a widespread pollutant.