

1 Tips on Vinyl chloride

2 Vinyl chloride is a colorless, sweet-smelling synthetic gas stored as a liquid under pressure. It is  
3 used to make PVC, or polyvinyl chloride, which is widely used in packaging materials, pipes, and  
4 wire and cable coatings.

5 Dermal exposure to liquid vinyl chloride can result in burns as the liquid rapidly evaporates. Acute  
6 inhalation of vinyl chloride can cause dizziness, headache, or nausea. Chronic inhalation can  
7 cause degeneration of the fingertips called “acroosteolysis”, Raynaud’s disease, scleroderma, and  
8 several types of cancer, especially hepatic angiosarcoma.

9 Urine levels of a vinyl chloride metabolite have limited clinical utility as they must be performed  
10 shortly after exposure and cannot predict health effects. However, elevated levels can confirm  
11 occupational exposure in some situations.

12 Treatment is primarily supportive, and ongoing exposure should be avoided when possible.

13 Advise patients that employers are responsible for informing them of workplace hazards and  
14 providing proper PPE. Counsel patients who work with vinyl chloride to use proper PPE.

15 Visit ATSDR’s website to learn more.