What are 2-butoxyethanol and 2-butoxyethanol acetate?
(Pronounced 2-byoh’toh/se eth’o-nohl’ and 2-byoh’toh/se eth’o-nohl’ ah’-tatt’)

2-Butoxyethanol is a clear colorless liquid that smells like ether. It has many names including ethylene glycol monobutyl ether, ethylene glycol butyl ether, ethylene glycol n-butyl ether, Butyl Cellusolve, butyl glycol, and butyl Oxitol. It is used as a solvent in spray lacquers, enamels, varnishes, and latex paints and as an ingredient in paint thinners and strippers, varnish removers, and herbicides. It is also used in liquid soaps, cosmetics, industrial and household cleaners, and dry-cleaning compounds.

2-Butoxyethanol acetate is a colorless liquid with a fruity odor. It is also known as ethylene glycol monobutyl ether acetate, butoxyethyl acetate, butyl glycol acetate, ethylene glycol butyl ether acetate, and acetic acid 2-butoxyethyl ester. It is used as a solvent for lacquers, varnishes, enamels, and epoxy resins. It is also used in some ink and spot remover compounds.

What happens to 2-butoxyethanol and 2-butoxyethanol acetate when they enter the environment?

- 2-Butoxyethanol and 2-butoxyethanol acetate may be released into the air when they are used as solvents and in household products.
- In air, 2-butoxyethanol and 2-butoxyethanol acetate may be removed by rain, ice, or snow.
- 2-Butoxyethanol and 2-butoxyethanol acetate may break down in air into other compounds within a few days.
- Both compounds may pass into air from water and soil.
- 2-Butoxyethanol and 2-butoxyethanol acetate do not build up in plants and animals.

How might I be exposed to 2-butoxyethanol and 2-butoxyethanol acetate?

- Many people are exposed to small amounts of 2-butoxyethanol and 2-butoxyethanol acetate every day.
- Breathing air or having skin contact with household cleaners or other liquids that contain these compounds.
- Drinking contaminated water.
Where can I get more information? For more information, contact the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Division of Toxicology, 1600 Clifton Road NE, Mailstop F-32, Atlanta, GA 30333. Phone: 1-888-422-8737, FAX: 770-488-4178. ToxFaqs Internet address via WWW is http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html. ATSDR can tell you where to find occupational and environmental health clinics. Their specialists can recognize, evaluate, and treat illnesses resulting from exposure to hazardous substances. You can also contact your community or state health or environmental quality department if you have any more questions or concerns.