

Chlorobenzene - ToxFAQs™

What is chlorobenzene?

Chlorobenzene is an industrial chemical that is not found naturally in the environment. It is a colorless, flammable liquid with an aromatic, almond-like odor.

Chlorobenzene is used as a solvent and to produce other chemicals.



How can I be exposed to chlorobenzene?

You can be exposed to very low levels of chlorobenzene in the air, water, and some foods.

Workers in industries that make or use chlorobenzene may be exposed to chlorobenzene in the air by breathing it in or through their skin.

Air near factories that make or use chlorobenzene or near hazardous waste sites that contain chlorobenzene may have higher levels of chlorobenzene in the air.

How can chlorobenzene affect my health?

A few volunteers complained of drowsiness, headache, throbbing pain in the eyes, and sore throat when breathing chlorobenzene for 7 hours. Headaches, dizziness, and sleepiness were also reported in workers breathing chlorobenzene. These workers were probably exposed to high levels of chlorobenzene.

Most of the information we know about how chlorobenzene can affect your health comes from studies in laboratory animals. Animals that inhaled or ingested large amounts of chlorobenzene had damage to the liver and kidney. Animals exposed to very high levels of chlorobenzene through inhalation showed nervous system effects, which included decreased activity and loss of muscle control.

Chlorobenzene may also affect the immune system. It can cause eye irritation if it gets in your eyes.

The levels of chlorobenzene found in the environment are lower than levels known to cause harmful effects.

Chlorobenzene

Can chlorobenzene cause cancer?

Studies of female rats and male and female mice given chlorobenzene orally did not find evidence that chlorobenzene caused cancer. In male rats, there was some evidence of liver cancer.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) considered chlorobenzene to be not classifiable as to human carcinogenicity.

Can I get a medical test to check for chlorobenzene?

Tests are available to measure levels of chlorobenzene in breath, urine, and body tissues. These tests are not usually available in the doctor's office. However, a sample taken in the doctor's office can be sent to a special laboratory. Because chlorobenzene leaves the body quickly, these tests have to be taken within a few days after exposure. These tests cannot predict whether you will have health problems. If you think you were exposed to chlorobenzene, call your doctor, nurse, clinic, or poison control center.

How can I protect myself and my family from chlorobenzene?

Workers involved in the production or use of chlorobenzene should take protective measures to limit inhalation and dermal exposure to chlorobenzene.

No specific protection from chlorobenzene is recommended because most people will not be exposed to chlorobenzene at levels likely to cause health problems.

For more information:



Call **CDC-INFO** at 1-800-232-4636, or submit your question online at:

<https://wwwn.cdc.gov/dcs/ContactUs/Form>

Go to ATSDR's Toxicological Profile for Chlorobenzene:

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/ToxProfiles/tp.asp?id=489&tid=87>

Go to ATSDR's Toxic Substances Portal: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/substances/index.asp>

Find & contact your ATSDR Regional Representative at: http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/DRO/dro_org.html