

**TOXICOLOGICAL PROFILE FOR
DINITROTOLUENES**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Public Health Service
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

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DISCLAIMER

Use of trade names is for identification only and does not imply endorsement by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the Public Health Service, or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

UPDATE STATEMENT

A Toxicological Profile for Dinitrotoluenes, Draft for Public Comment was released in April 2013. This edition supersedes any previously released draft or final profile.

Toxicological profiles are revised and republished as necessary. For information regarding the update status of previously released profiles, contact ATSDR at:

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FOREWORD

This toxicological profile is prepared in accordance with guidelines* developed by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The original guidelines were published in the *Federal Register* on April 17, 1987. Each profile will be revised and republished as necessary.

The ATSDR toxicological profile succinctly characterizes the toxicologic and adverse health effects information for these toxic substances described therein. Each peer-reviewed profile identifies and reviews the key literature that describes a substance's toxicologic properties. Other pertinent literature is also presented, but is described in less detail than the key studies. The profile is not intended to be an exhaustive document; however, more comprehensive sources of specialty information are referenced.

The focus of the profiles is on health and toxicologic information; therefore, each toxicological profile begins with a public health statement that describes, in nontechnical language, a substance's relevant toxicological properties. Following the public health statement is information concerning levels of significant human exposure and, where known, significant health effects. The adequacy of information to determine a substance's health effects is described in a health effects summary. Data needs that are of significance to protection of public health are identified by ATSDR.

Each profile includes the following:

- (A) The examination, summary, and interpretation of available toxicologic information and epidemiologic evaluations on a toxic substance to ascertain the levels of significant human exposure for the substance and the associated acute, subacute, and chronic health effects;
- (B) A determination of whether adequate information on the health effects of each substance is available or in the process of development to determine levels of exposure that present a significant risk to human health of acute, subacute, and chronic health effects; and
- (C) Where appropriate, identification of toxicologic testing needed to identify the types or levels of exposure that may present significant risk of adverse health effects in humans.

The principal audiences for the toxicological profiles are health professionals at the Federal, State, and local levels; interested private sector organizations and groups; and members of the public.

This profile reflects ATSDR's assessment of all relevant toxicologic testing and information that has been peer-reviewed. Staffs of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other Federal scientists have also reviewed the profile. In addition, this profile has been peer-reviewed by a nongovernmental panel and was made available for public review. Final responsibility for the contents and views expressed in this toxicological profile resides with ATSDR.



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*Legislative Background

The toxicological profiles are developed under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (CERCLA or Superfund). CERCLA section 104(i)(1) directs the Administrator of ATSDR to "...effectuate and implement the health related authorities" of the statute. This includes the preparation of toxicological profiles for hazardous substances most commonly found at facilities on the CERCLA National Priorities List and that pose the most significant potential threat to human health, as determined by ATSDR and the EPA. Section 104(i)(3) of CERCLA, as amended, directs the Administrator of ATSDR to prepare a toxicological profile for each substance on the list. In addition, ATSDR has the authority to prepare toxicological profiles for substances not found at sites on the National Priorities List, in an effort to "...establish and maintain inventory of literature, research, and studies on the health effects of toxic substances" under CERCLA Section 104(i)(1)(B), to respond to requests for consultation under section 104(i)(4), and as otherwise necessary to support the site-specific response actions conducted by ATSDR.

QUICK REFERENCE FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Toxicological Profiles are a unique compilation of toxicological information on a given hazardous substance. Each profile reflects a comprehensive and extensive evaluation, summary, and interpretation of available toxicologic and epidemiologic information on a substance. Health care providers treating patients potentially exposed to hazardous substances will find the following information helpful for fast answers to often-asked questions.

Primary Chapters/Sections of Interest

Chapter 1: Public Health Statement: The Public Health Statement can be a useful tool for educating patients about possible exposure to a hazardous substance. It explains a substance's relevant toxicologic properties in a nontechnical, question-and-answer format, and it includes a review of the general health effects observed following exposure.

Chapter 2: Relevance to Public Health: The Relevance to Public Health Section evaluates, interprets, and assesses the significance of toxicity data to human health.

Chapter 3: Health Effects: Specific health effects of a given hazardous compound are reported by type of health effect (death, systemic, immunologic, reproductive), by route of exposure, and by length of exposure (acute, intermediate, and chronic). In addition, both human and animal studies are reported in this section.

NOTE: Not all health effects reported in this section are necessarily observed in the clinical setting. Please refer to the Public Health Statement to identify general health effects observed following exposure.

Pediatrics: Four new sections have been added to each Toxicological Profile to address child health issues:

Chapter 1 **How Can (Chemical X) Affect Children?**

Chapter 1 **How Can Families Reduce the Risk of Exposure to (Chemical X)?**

Section 3.7 **Children's Susceptibility**

Section 6.6 **Exposures of Children**

Other Sections of Interest:

Section 3.8 **Biomarkers of Exposure and Effect**

Section 3.11 **Methods for Reducing Toxic Effects**

ATSDR Information Center

Phone: 1-800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636) or 1-888-232-6348 (TTY)

Internet: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov>

The following additional material is available online at www.atsdr.cdc.gov:

Case Studies in Environmental Medicine—Case Studies are self-instructional publications designed to increase primary care provider's knowledge of a hazardous substance in the environment and to aid in the evaluation of potentially exposed patients.

Managing Hazardous Materials Incidents is a three-volume set of recommendations for on-scene (prehospital) and hospital medical management of patients exposed during a hazardous materials incident. Volumes I and II are planning guides to assist first responders and hospital emergency department personnel in planning for incidents that involve hazardous materials. Volume III—*Medical Management Guidelines for Acute Chemical Exposures*—is a guide for health care professionals treating patients exposed to hazardous materials.

Fact Sheets (ToxFAQs™) provide answers to frequently asked questions about toxic substances.

Other Agencies and Organizations

The National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) focuses on preventing or controlling disease, injury, and disability related to the interactions between people and their environment outside the workplace. Contact: NCEH, Mailstop F-29, 4770 Buford Highway, NE, Atlanta, GA 30341-3724 • Phone: 770-488-7000 • FAX: 770-488-7015.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) conducts research on occupational diseases and injuries, responds to requests for assistance by investigating problems of health and safety in the workplace, recommends standards to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), and trains professionals in occupational safety and health. Contact: NIOSH, 395 E Street, S.W., Suite 9200, Patriots Plaza Building, Washington, DC 20201 • Phone: (202) 245-0625 or 1-800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636).

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) is the principal federal agency for biomedical research on the effects of chemical, physical, and biologic environmental agents on human health and well-being. Contact: NIEHS, PO Box 12233, 104 T.W. Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709 • Phone: 919-541-3212.

Clinical Resources

The Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics (AOEC) has developed a network of clinics in the United States to provide expertise in occupational and environmental issues. Contact: AOEC, 1010 Vermont Avenue, NW, #513, Washington, DC 20005 • Phone: 202-347-4976 • FAX: 202-347-4950 • e-mail: AOEC@AOEC.ORG • Web Page: <http://www.aoec.org/>.

The American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) is an association of physicians and other health care providers specializing in the field of occupational and environmental medicine. Contact: ACOEM, 25 Northwest Point Boulevard, Suite 700, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-1030 • Phone: 847-818-1800 • FAX: 847-818-9266.

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THE PROFILE HAS UNDERGONE THE FOLLOWING ATSDR INTERNAL REVIEWS:

1. Health Effects Review. The Health Effects Review Committee examines the health effects chapter of each profile for consistency and accuracy in interpreting health effects and classifying end points.
2. Minimal Risk Level Review. The Minimal Risk Level Workgroup considers issues relevant to substance-specific Minimal Risk Levels (MRLs), reviews the health effects database of each profile, and makes recommendations for derivation of MRLs.
3. Data Needs Review. The Environmental Toxicology Branch reviews data needs sections to assure consistency across profiles and adherence to instructions in the Guidance.
4. Green Border Review. Green Border review assures the consistency with ATSDR policy.

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PEER REVIEW

A peer review panel was assembled for dinitrotoluenes. The panel consisted of the following members:

1. William J. George, Ph.D., Department of Pharmacology SL83, Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, Louisiana;
2. James Klaunig, Ph.D., Professor and Director of Toxicology, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Division of Toxicology, School of Medicine, Indiana University, Indianapolis, Indiana;
3. Volker Harth, MD, MPH, Professor of Occupational Medicine, University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf (UKE), Director Institute for Occupational and Maritime Medicine (ZfAM), Hamburg, Germany.

These experts collectively have knowledge of dinitrotoluene's physical and chemical properties, toxicokinetics, key health end points, mechanisms of action, human and animal exposure, and quantification of risk to humans. All reviewers were selected in conformity with the conditions for peer review specified in Section 104(I)(13) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended.

Scientists from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) have reviewed the peer reviewers' comments and determined which comments will be included in the profile. A listing of the peer reviewers' comments not incorporated in the profile, with a brief explanation of the rationale for their exclusion, exists as part of the administrative record for this compound.

The citation of the peer review panel should not be understood to imply its approval of the profile's final content. The responsibility for the content of this profile lies with the ATSDR.

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CONTENTS

DISCLAIMER	ii
UPDATE STATEMENT	iii
FOREWORD	v
QUICK REFERENCE FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.....	vii
CONTRIBUTORS	ix
PEER REVIEW	xi
CONTENTS.....	xiii
LIST OF FIGURES	xvii
LIST OF TABLES	xix
1. PUBLIC HEALTH STATEMENT FOR DINITROTOLUENES (DNTs).....	1
2. RELEVANCE TO PUBLIC HEALTH	7
2.1 BACKGROUND AND ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURES TO DNT IN THE UNITED STATES.....	7
2.2 SUMMARY OF HEALTH EFFECTS.....	8
2.3 MINIMAL RISK LEVELS (MRLs)	12
3. HEALTH EFFECTS.....	35
3.1 INTRODUCTION.....	35
3.2 DISCUSSION OF HEALTH EFFECTS BY ROUTE OF EXPOSURE	35
3.2.1 Inhalation Exposure	36
3.2.1.1 Death.....	37
3.2.1.2 Systemic Effects.....	38
3.2.1.3 Immunological and Lymphoreticular Effects	41
3.2.1.4 Neurological Effects	41
3.2.1.5 Reproductive Effects.....	42
3.2.1.6 Developmental Effects.....	43
3.2.1.7 Cancer	43
3.2.2 Oral Exposure.....	44
3.2.2.1 Death.....	45
3.2.2.2 Systemic Effects	48
3.2.2.3 Immunological and Lymphoreticular Effects	111
3.2.2.4 Neurological Effects	112
3.2.2.5 Reproductive Effects.....	115
3.2.2.6 Developmental Effects.....	119
3.2.2.7 Cancer	119
3.2.3 Dermal Exposure.....	122
3.2.3.1 Death.....	122
3.2.3.2 Systemic Effects.....	123
3.2.3.3 Immunological and Lymphoreticular Effects	125
3.2.3.4 Neurological Effects	126
3.2.3.5 Reproductive Effects.....	126
3.2.3.6 Developmental Effects.....	126
3.2.3.7 Cancer	126
3.3 GENOTOXICITY	127
3.4 TOXICOKINETICS.....	137
3.4.1 Absorption.....	137
3.4.1.1 Inhalation Exposure	137

3.4.1.2	Oral Exposure	137
3.4.1.3	Dermal Exposure	138
3.4.2	Distribution	138
3.4.2.1	Inhalation Exposure	138
3.4.2.2	Oral Exposure	138
3.4.2.3	Dermal Exposure	139
3.4.3	Metabolism.....	139
3.4.4	Elimination and Excretion.....	147
3.4.4.1	Inhalation Exposure	147
3.4.4.2	Oral Exposure	147
3.4.4.3	Dermal Exposure	148
3.4.5	Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic (PBPK)/Pharmacodynamic (PD) Models	149
3.5	MECHANISMS OF ACTION	150
3.5.1	Pharmacokinetic Mechanisms.....	150
3.5.2	Mechanisms of Toxicity.....	152
3.5.3	Animal-to-Human Extrapolations	155
3.6	TOXICITIES MEDIATED THROUGH THE NEUROENDOCRINE AXIS	156
3.7	CHILDREN'S SUSCEPTIBILITY	157
3.8	BIOMARKERS OF EXPOSURE AND EFFECT	160
3.8.1	Biomarkers Used to Identify or Quantify Exposure to DNTs.....	161
3.8.2	Biomarkers Used to Characterize Effects Caused by DNTs.....	162
3.9	INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER CHEMICALS	163
3.10	POPULATIONS THAT ARE UNUSUALLY SUSCEPTIBLE	163
3.11	METHODS FOR REDUCING TOXIC EFFECTS	164
3.11.1	Reducing Peak Absorption Following Exposure.....	165
3.11.2	Reducing Body Burden	165
3.11.3	Interfering with the Mechanism of Action for Toxic Effects	165
3.12	ADEQUACY OF THE DATABASE.....	166
3.12.1	Existing Information on Health Effects of DNTs.....	166
3.12.2	Identification of Data Needs.....	171
3.12.3	Ongoing Studies	179
4.	CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL INFORMATION.....	181
4.1	CHEMICAL IDENTITY.....	181
4.2	PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES.....	181
5.	PRODUCTION, IMPORT/EXPORT, USE, AND DISPOSAL.....	187
5.1	PRODUCTION	187
5.2	IMPORT/EXPORT	187
5.3	USE	190
5.4	DISPOSAL.....	190
6.	POTENTIAL FOR HUMAN EXPOSURE.....	191
6.1	OVERVIEW.....	191
6.2	RELEASES TO THE ENVIRONMENT	193
6.2.1	Air	194
6.2.2	Water.....	194
6.2.3	Soil	197
6.3	ENVIRONMENTAL FATE	197
6.3.1	Transport and Partitioning.....	197
6.3.2	Transformation and Degradation	199

6.3.2.1	Air	199
6.3.2.2	Water	200
6.3.2.3	Sediment and Soil	203
6.4	LEVELS MONITORED OR ESTIMATED IN THE ENVIRONMENT	205
6.4.1	Air	205
6.4.2	Water	206
6.4.3	Sediment and Soil	207
6.4.4	Other Environmental Media	208
6.5	GENERAL POPULATION AND OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE	208
6.6	EXPOSURES OF CHILDREN	209
6.7	POPULATIONS WITH POTENTIALLY HIGH EXPOSURES	211
6.8	ADEQUACY OF THE DATABASE	211
6.8.1	Identification of Data Needs	212
6.8.2	Ongoing Studies	215
7.	ANALYTICAL METHODS	217
7.1	BIOLOGICAL MATERIALS	217
7.2	ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES	218
7.3	ADEQUACY OF THE DATABASE	222
7.3.1	Identification of Data Needs	227
7.3.2	Ongoing Studies	227
8.	REGULATIONS, ADVISORIES, AND GUIDELINES	229
9.	REFERENCES	237
10.	GLOSSARY	261
APPENDICES		
A.	ATSDR MINIMAL RISK LEVELS AND WORKSHEETS	A-1
B.	USER'S GUIDE	B-1
C.	ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND SYMBOLS	C-1

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LIST OF FIGURES

2-1. Health Effects for Ingesting 2,3-Dinitrotoluene	13
2-2. Health Effects for Ingesting 2,4-Dinitrotoluene	14
2-3. Health Effects for Ingesting 2,5-Dinitrotoluene	15
2-4. Health Effects for Ingesting 2,6-Dinitrotoluene	16
2-5. Health Effects for Ingesting 3,4-Dinitrotoluene	17
2-6. Health Effects for Ingesting 3,5-Dinitrotoluene	18
3-1. Levels of Significant Exposure to 2,4-Dinitrotoluene - Oral.....	50
3-2. Levels of Significant Exposure to 2,6-Dinitrotoluene - Oral.....	70
3-3. Levels of Significant Exposure to 2,3-Dinitrotoluene - Oral	77
3-4. Levels of Significant Exposure to 2,5-Dinitrotoluene - Oral.....	86
3-5. Levels of Significant Exposure to 3,4-Dinitrotoluene - Oral.....	90
3-6. Levels of Significant Exposure to 3,5-Dinitrotoluene - Oral.....	92
3-7. Proposed Metabolic Pathways for the Hepatic Metabolism of 2,4-Dinitrotoluene	141
3-8. Proposed Pathways for the Anaerobic Metabolism of 2,4-Dinitrotoluene in Rat Intestinal Microflora.....	142
3-9. Proposed Pathways for Metabolism of 2,6-Dinitrotoluene	143
3-10. Conceptual Representation of a Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic (PBPK) Model for a Hypothetical Chemical Substance	151
3-11. Existing Information on Health Effects of 2,4-Dinitrotoluene	167
3-12. Existing Information on Health Effects of 2,6-Dinitrotoluene	168
3-13. Existing Information on Health Effects of 2,3-, 2,5-, 3,4-, and 3,5-Dinitrotoluene	169
3-14. Existing Information on Health Effects of Technical-Grade Dinitrotoluene.....	170
6-1. Frequency of NPL Sites with 2,4- and 2,6-Dinitrotoluene Contamination	192

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LIST OF TABLES

2-1. Summary of Oral MRLs (mg/kg/day) for Dinitrotoluenes	20
3-1. Levels of Significant Exposure to 2,4-Dinitrotoluene - Oral.....	48
3-2. Levels of Significant Exposure to 2,6-Dinitrotoluene - Oral.....	51
3-3. Levels of Significant Exposure to 2,3-Dinitrotoluene - Oral	75
3-4. Levels of Significant Exposure to 2,5-Dinitrotoluene - Oral.....	78
3-5. Levels of Significant Exposure to 3,4-Dinitrotoluene - Oral.....	89
3-6. Levels of Significant Exposure to 3,5-Dinitrotoluene - Oral.....	91
3-7. NOAELs and LOAELs for Hematological Effects Following 14-Day Gavage Dosing of Male Sprague-Dawley Rats with Individual DNT Isomers.....	101
3-8. NOAELs and LOAELs for Hepatic Effects Following 14-Day Gavage Dosing of Male Sprague-Dawley Rats with Individual DNT Isomers.....	105
3-9. Genotoxicity of Dinitrotoluene Isomers <i>In Vitro</i>	128
3-10. Genotoxicity of Dinitrotoluene Isomers <i>In Vivo</i>	133
4-1. Chemical Identity of Dinitrotoluenes	182
4-2. Physical and Chemical Properties of Dinitrotoluenes	184
5-1. Facilities that Produce, Process, or Use 2,4-Dinitrotoluene	188
5-2. Facilities that Produce, Process, or Use 2,6-Dinitrotoluene	189
6-1. Releases to the Environment from Facilities that Produce, Process, or Use 2,4-Dinitrotoluene.....	195
6-2. Releases to the Environment from Facilities that Produce, Process, or Use 2,6-Dinitrotoluene.....	196
7-1. Analytical Methods for Determining Dinitrotoluenes in Biological Materials	219
7-2. Analytical Methods for Determining Dinitrotoluenes in Environmental Samples.....	223
8-1. Oral Minimal Risk Levels (MRLs) for Dinitrotoluenes	231
8-2. Regulations, Advisories, and Guidelines Applicable to Dinitrotoluenes	232