

**TOXICOLOGICAL PROFILE FOR
XYLENE**

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

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DISCLAIMER

The use of company or product name(s) is for identification only and does not imply endorsement by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

UPDATE STATEMENT

A Toxicological Profile for Xylene, Draft for Public Comment was released in September 2005. 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 the hazardous substance described therein. Each peer-reviewed profile identifies and reviews the key literature that describes a hazardous 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 and EPA.

Each profile includes the following:

- (A) The examination, summary, and interpretation of available toxicologic information and epidemiologic evaluations on a hazardous 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.

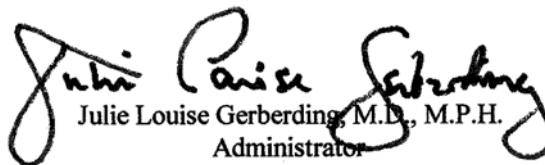
The principal audiences for the toxicological profiles are health professionals at the Federal, State, and local levels; interested private sector organizations and groups; and members of the public.

This profile reflects ATSDR's assessment of all relevant toxicologic testing and information that has been peer-reviewed. Staff 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 is being made available for public review. Final responsibility for the contents and views expressed in this toxicological profile resides with ATSDR.



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The toxicological profiles are developed in response to the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986 (Public Law 99-499) which amended the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA or Superfund). This public law directed ATSDR to prepare 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. The availability of the revised priority list of 275 hazardous substances was announced in the *Federal Register* on December 7, 2005 (70 FR 72840). For prior versions of the list of substances, see *Federal Register* notices dated April 17, 1987 (52 FR 12866); October 20, 1988 (53 FR 41280); October 26, 1989 (54 FR 43619); October 17, 1990 (55 FR 42067); October 17, 1991 (56 FR 52166); October 28, 1992 (57 FR 48801); February 28, 1994 (59 FR 9486); April 29, 1996 (61 FR 18744); November 17, 1997 (62 FR 61332); October 21, 1999 (64 FR 56792); October 25, 2001 (66 FR 54014); and November 7, 2003 (68 FR 63098). Section 104(i)(3) of CERCLA, as amended, directs the Administrator of ATSDR to prepare a toxicological profile for each substance on the list.

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:

Section 1.6	How Can (Chemical X) Affect Children?
Section 1.7	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) **Fax:** (770) 488-4178
E-mail: cdcinfo@cdc.gov **Internet:** <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov>

The following additional material can be ordered through the ATSDR Information Center:

Case Studies in Environmental Medicine: Taking an Exposure History—The importance of taking an exposure history and how to conduct one are described, and an example of a thorough exposure history is provided. Other case studies of interest include *Reproductive and Developmental Hazards*; *Skin Lesions and Environmental Exposures*; *Cholinesterase-Inhibiting Pesticide Toxicity*; and numerous chemical-specific case studies.

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, 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20201 • Phone: 800-356-4674 or NIOSH Technical Information Branch, Robert A. Taft Laboratory, Mailstop C-19, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45226-1998 • Phone: 800-35-NIOSH.

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.

Referrals

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 Applied 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 xylene. The panel consisted of the following members:

1. Dr. Bruce Jarnot, Private Consultant, Prince Frederick, Maryland;
2. Dr. Kannan Krishnan, Professor of Occupational and Environmental Health, University of Montreal, Pierrefonds, Canada; and
3. Dr. Steven Lewis, President, Lewis Environmental Consulting Services, Washington, New Jersey.

These experts collectively have knowledge of xylene'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.....	1
1.1 WHAT IS XYLENE?.....	1
1.2 WHAT HAPPENS TO XYLENE WHEN IT ENTERS THE ENVIRONMENT?.....	2
1.3 HOW MIGHT I BE EXPOSED TO XYLENE?	3
1.4 HOW CAN XYLENE ENTER AND LEAVE MY BODY?	4
1.5 HOW CAN XYLENE AFFECT MY HEALTH?	5
1.6 HOW CAN XYLENE AFFECT CHILDREN?	6
1.7 HOW CAN FAMILIES REDUCE THE RISK OF EXPOSURE TO XYLENE?	7
1.8 IS THERE A MEDICAL TEST TO DETERMINE WHETHER I HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO XYLENE?	7
1.9 WHAT RECOMMENDATIONS HAS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MADE TO PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH?.....	8
1.10 WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?	9
2. RELEVANCE TO PUBLIC HEALTH	11
2.1 BACKGROUND AND ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURES TO XYLENE IN THE UNITED STATES.....	11
2.2 SUMMARY OF HEALTH EFFECTS	12
2.3 MINIMAL RISK LEVELS (MRLs)	17
3. HEALTH EFFECTS	27
3.1 INTRODUCTION.....	27
3.2 DISCUSSION OF HEALTH EFFECTS BY ROUTE OF EXPOSURE	27
3.2.1 Inhalation Exposure	29
3.2.1.1 Death	29
3.2.1.2 Systemic Effects	30
3.2.1.3 Immunological and Lymphoreticular Effects.....	72
3.2.1.4 Neurological Effects.....	72
3.2.1.5 Reproductive Effects	78
3.2.1.6 Developmental Effects	79
3.2.1.7 Cancer.....	82
3.2.2 Oral Exposure.....	82
3.2.2.1 Death	82
3.2.2.2 Systemic Effects	83
3.2.2.3 Immunological and Lymphoreticular Effects.....	106
3.2.2.4 Neurological Effects.....	106
3.2.2.5 Reproductive Effects	107
3.2.2.6 Developmental Effects	108
3.2.2.7 Cancer.....	108

3.2.3	Dermal Exposure.....	109
3.2.3.1	Death	109
3.2.3.2	Systemic Effects	109
3.2.3.3	Immunological and Lymphoreticular Effects	115
3.2.3.4	Neurological Effects	116
3.2.3.5	Reproductive Effects	116
3.2.3.6	Developmental Effects	116
3.2.3.7	Cancer	117
3.3	GENOTOXICITY	117
3.4	TOXICOKINETICS	122
3.4.1	Absorption.....	123
3.4.1.1	Inhalation Exposure.....	123
3.4.1.2	Oral Exposure	124
3.4.1.3	Dermal Exposure	125
3.4.2	Distribution	126
3.4.2.1	Inhalation Exposure.....	126
3.4.2.2	Oral Exposure	129
3.4.2.3	Dermal Exposure	129
3.4.3	Metabolism.....	129
3.4.4	Elimination and Excretion.....	134
3.4.4.1	Inhalation Exposure.....	134
3.4.4.2	Oral Exposure	136
3.4.4.3	Dermal Exposure	136
3.4.4.4	Other Routes of Exposure	137
3.4.5	Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic (PBPK)/Pharmacodynamic (PD) Models	138
3.5	MECHANISMS OF ACTION	152
3.5.1	Pharmacokinetic Mechanisms.....	152
3.5.2	Mechanisms of Toxicity.....	154
3.5.3	Animal-to-Human Extrapolations	157
3.6	TOXICITIES MEDIATED THROUGH THE NEUROENDOCRINE AXIS	157
3.7	CHILDREN'S SUSCEPTIBILITY	158
3.8	BIOMARKERS OF EXPOSURE AND EFFECT	162
3.8.1	Biomarkers Used to Identify or Quantify Exposure to Xylene	163
3.8.2	Biomarkers Used to Characterize Effects Caused by Xylene	164
3.9	INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER CHEMICALS	164
3.10	POPULATIONS THAT ARE UNUSUALLY SUSCEPTIBLE	168
3.11	METHODS FOR REDUCING TOXIC EFFECTS.....	170
3.11.1	Reducing Peak Absorption Following Exposure	170
3.11.2	Reducing Body Burden.....	171
3.11.3	Interfering with the Mechanism of Action for Toxic Effects	171
3.12	ADEQUACY OF THE DATABASE.....	172
3.12.1	Existing Information on Health Effects of Xylene	173
3.12.2	Identification of Data Needs	175
3.12.3	Ongoing Studies.....	184
4.	CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL INFORMATION.....	185
4.1	CHEMICAL IDENTITY.....	185
4.2	PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES.....	185
5.	PRODUCTION, IMPORT/EXPORT, USE, AND DISPOSAL	189
5.1	PRODUCTION	189

5.2	IMPORT/EXPORT	200
5.3	USE.....	200
5.4	DISPOSAL.....	200
6.	POTENTIAL FOR HUMAN EXPOSURE	203
6.1	OVERVIEW	203
6.2	RELEASES TO THE ENVIRONMENT	205
6.2.1	Air	206
6.2.2	Water.....	214
6.2.3	Soil	216
6.3	ENVIRONMENTAL FATE.....	217
6.3.1	Transport and Partitioning.....	217
6.3.2	Transformation and Degradation	218
6.3.2.1	Air.....	218
6.3.2.2	Water	219
6.3.2.3	Sediment and Soil.....	221
6.4	LEVELS MONITORED OR ESTIMATED IN THE ENVIRONMENT	222
6.4.1	Air	222
6.4.2	Water.....	232
6.4.3	Sediment and Soil	235
6.4.4	Other Environmental Media.....	237
6.5	GENERAL POPULATION AND OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE	239
6.6	EXPOSURES OF CHILDREN	249
6.7	POPULATIONS WITH POTENTIALLY HIGH EXPOSURES	253
6.8	ADEQUACY OF THE DATABASE.....	253
6.8.1	Identification of Data Needs	254
6.8.2	Ongoing Studies	257
7.	ANALYTICAL METHODS	259
7.1	BIOLOGICAL MATERIALS.....	259
7.2	ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES.....	266
7.3	ADEQUACY OF THE DATABASE.....	268
7.3.1	Identification of Data Needs	269
7.3.2	Ongoing Studies	270
8.	REGULATIONS AND ADVISORIES	271
9.	REFERENCES	277
10.	GLOSSARY	325
APPENDICES		
A.	ATSDR MINIMAL RISK LEVELS AND WORKSHEETS	A-1
B.	USER'S GUIDE.....	B-1
C.	ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND SYMBOLS.....	C-1
D.	INDEX	D-1

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LIST OF FIGURES

3-1. Levels of Significant Exposure to Xylene - Inhalation.....	56
3-2. Levels of Significant Exposure to Xylene - Oral.....	97
3-3. Metabolic Scheme for Xylenes—Humans	130
3-4. Metabolic Scheme for Xylenes—Animals	132
3-5. Conceptual Representation of a Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic (PBPK) Model for a Hypothetical Chemical Substance.....	140
3-6. PBPK Model for Inhaled <i>m</i> -Xylene	141
3-7. PBPK Model to Describe Dermal Absorption of <i>o</i> -Xylene	146
3-8. PBPK Model for Lactational Exposure to Volatile Organic Compounds (Including <i>o</i> -, <i>m</i> -, <i>p</i> -Xylenes) Following Maternal Occupational Inhalation Exposure.....	149
3-9. Existing Information on Health Effects of Total Xylenes	174
6-1. Frequency of NPL Sites with Xylene Contamination	204

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LIST OF TABLES

3-1. Levels of Significant Exposure to Xylene - Inhalation.....	31
3-2. Levels of Significant Exposure to Xylene - Oral.....	84
3-3. Levels of Significant Exposure to Xylene - Dermal.....	110
3-4. Genotoxicity of Xylene <i>In Vivo</i>	118
3-5. Genotoxicity of Xylene <i>In Vitro</i>	119
3-6. Partition Coefficients for Xylenes.....	127
3-7. Human Parameters Used in the PBPK Inhalation Model for <i>m</i> -Xylene.....	142
3-8. Rat and Human Parameters Used in the PBPK Dermal Model for <i>o</i> -Xylene.....	145
3-9. Human Parameters Used in the PBPK Lactational Model for <i>o</i> -, <i>m</i> -, <i>p</i> -Xylene.....	148
4-1. Chemical Identity of <i>m</i> -Xylene, <i>o</i> -Xylene, <i>p</i> -Xylene, and Mixed Xylene.....	186
4-2. Physical and Chemical Properties of <i>m</i> -Xylene, <i>o</i> -Xylene, <i>p</i> -Xylene, and Mixed Xylene.....	187
5-1. Producers of Xylene and Estimated Annual Capacities.....	190
5-2. Facilities that Produce, Process, or Use Xylene (Mixed).....	191
5-3. Facilities that Produce, Process, or Use <i>m</i> -Xylene.....	194
5-4. Facilities that Produce, Process, or Use <i>o</i> -Xylene.....	196
5-5. Facilities that Produce, Process, or Use <i>p</i> -Xylene.....	198
5-6. U.S. Import and Export Data on Xylenes.....	201
6-1. Releases to the Environment from Facilities that Produce, Process, or Use Xylene (Mixed).....	207
6-2. Releases to the Environment from Facilities that Produce, Process, or Use <i>m</i> -Xylene.....	209
6-3. Releases to the Environment from Facilities that Produce, Process, or Use <i>o</i> -Xylene.....	210
6-4. Releases to the Environment from Facilities that Produce, Process, or Use <i>p</i> -Xylene.....	212
6-5. Xylene Concentrations in Outdoor Air.....	223
6-6. Xylene Concentrations in Indoor Air.....	228
6-7. Xylene Concentrations in Groundwater.....	236

6-8. Average Personal Air, Outdoor Air, and Breath Concentrations Measured During the 1984 TEAM Study	240
6-9. Average Personal Air, Indoor Air, Outdoor Air, and Breath Concentrations from the 1987 TEAM Study	241
6-10. Concentrations of Xylene in Consumer Products.....	244
6-11. Percentage Breakdown of NIOSH Occupational Exposure Estimates from the NOES Database.....	250
6-12. Personal, Indoor, and Outdoor Air Exposures of Inner-city Children in Minneapolis, Minnesota to Xylenes	252
7-1. Analytical Methods for Determining Xylene in Biological Materials.....	260
7-2. Analytical Methods for Determining Xylene in Environmental Samples	262
8-1. Regulations and Guidelines Applicable to Xylenes	272