



Benzene

Why am I being warned about potential exposure to benzene?

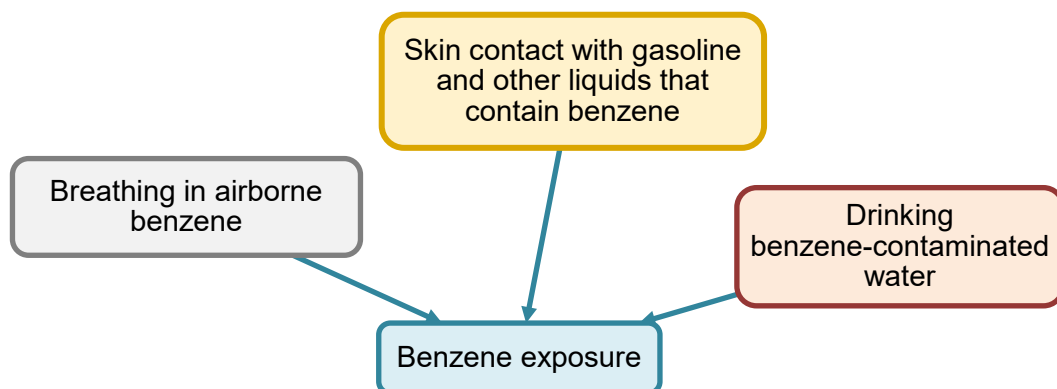


- Benzene is on the [Proposition 65](#) list because it can cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm.
- Exposure to benzene can cause leukemia.
- Exposure to benzene during pregnancy may affect the development of the child. It may also harm the male reproductive system.
- Proposition 65 requires businesses to determine if they must provide a warning about significant exposure to [listed chemicals](#).

What is benzene?

- Benzene is a colorless and highly flammable liquid with a sweet smell. It evaporates into the air quickly.
 - ▶ Benzene, while not in the final product, is used in the manufacture of drugs, dyes, insecticides, plastics, resins, rubber, detergents, and other chemicals.
 - ▶ Benzene is present in natural gas and petroleum products such as crude oil and gasoline.
 - ▶ Gasoline, motor vehicle exhaust, and industrial emissions are major sources of benzene in the air.
 - ▶ Tobacco smoke contains benzene.

How does exposure to benzene occur?



- During pregnancy, benzene can pass from mother to baby.

How can I reduce my exposure to benzene?

- ❌ Do not smoke. Do not allow children to breathe tobacco smoke.
- ✓ Limit your and children's contact with gasoline and its fumes.
 - ▶ Pump gasoline carefully to avoid exposure to liquid and fumes. If possible, stand a few steps away from the gasoline-pump nozzle while filling your tank.
 - ▶ Limit the time you spend near idling car engines.
 - ▶ Do not idle car engines in attached garages.
- ✓ Ventilate homes and attached garages well to get fresh air.
- ✓ Assure adequate ventilation inside your vehicle. Set the ventilation system to allow outside air to enter the vehicle, when possible.
- ✓ If you use well water, have it tested for benzene contamination. (If your water comes from a public supplier, it is already tested regularly for benzene.)
- ✓ If you think you may have a natural gas leak in your home, such as a low-level leak associated with a natural gas-powered appliance, have it inspected and fixed. If there is a strong gas odor, leave the building immediately.

For more information:**General Fact Sheets and Resources**

- American Cancer Society
 - ▶ Benzene and Cancer Risk
<http://www.cancer.org/cancer/cancercauses/othercarcinogens/intheworkplace/benzene>
- US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
 - ▶ Benzene
<https://wwwn.cdc.gov/TSP/substances/ToxSubstance.aspx?toxid=14US>
- US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA)
 - ▶ Benzene
<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-09/documents/benzene.pdf>
- World Health Organization (WHO)
 - ▶ Exposure to Benzene: A Major Health Concern
<http://www.who.int/ipcs/features/benzene.pdf>

Scientific Information on Benzene

- World Health Organization (WHO)
International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)
 - ▶ IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans, vol. 100 F (2012). "Benzene" in Chemical Agents and Related Occupations, pages 249-294.
<https://publications.iarc.fr/123>

- California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)
 - ▶ Benzene Reference Exposure Levels
http://oehha.ca.gov/air/chronic_rels/pdf/BenzeneRELSJune2014.pdf

Proposition 65

- California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)
 - ▶ Proposition 65: Background
<https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/faq>
 - ▶ Proposition 65: The List of Chemicals
<https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/chemicals>
 - ▶ Proposition 65: Fact Sheets
<https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/fact-sheets>