



Nitrous Oxide Use in Dental Care

Why am I being warned about potential exposure to nitrous oxide?



- Nitrous oxide is on the [Proposition 65](#) list because it can cause birth defects or other reproductive harm.
- Women exposed to nitrous oxide may experience reduced fertility. Exposure during pregnancy may cause loss of pregnancy and birth defects.
- Proposition 65 requires businesses to determine if they must provide a warning about significant exposure to [listed chemicals](#).

What is nitrous oxide?

Nitrous oxide, commonly known as “laughing gas,” is a gas used in combination with other gases to ease pain and anxiety during certain dental procedures.

How does exposure to nitrous oxide occur during dental care?

- A dental patient breathes in nitrous oxide when it is used in a dental procedure.
- Nitrous oxide can pass to the unborn baby when it is given to a pregnant woman during a dental procedure.

How can I reduce my exposure to nitrous oxide during dental care?

- ✓ Talk to your doctor or dentist about anesthetic options other than nitrous oxide when planning dental work.
- ✓ Maintain good dental health.

For more information:

General Fact Sheets and Resources

- US Department of Health Human Services (HHS)
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
 - ▶ Controlling Exposures to Nitrous Oxide During Anesthetic Administration
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/94-100/>
 - ▶ Control of Nitrous Oxide in Dental Operatories
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/94-129/>

Dental Oral Health

- California Dental Association (CDA)
 - ▶ Oral Health Fact Sheets
<http://www.cda.org/public-resources/patient-fact-sheets>
 - ▶ Nitrous Oxide
http://www.cda.org/Portals/0/pdfs/fact_sheets/nitrous_oxide_english.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>