

ARSENIC

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What is Arsenic?

- Naturally occurring element in soil and rocks.
- Found in environment with other elements such as oxygen, chlorine, and sulfur combining to form organic arsenic.

Common Uses

- Preservative for wood (pressure-treated).
- Pesticides for cotton and animal feed.
- Car batteries and semiconductors.

Chemical Information

- White or colorless powder.
- Odorless and tasteless.
- Human carcinogen.
- Can be exposed through inhalation, skin absorption, skin and eye contact and ingestion.
- People are most commonly exposed through drinking water.
- Many arsenic compounds can dissolve in water.

Stability & Reactivity

Incompatible with strong oxidizers and bromine azide.

Handling & Storage

- Store out of reach of children.
- Store in original labeled container.

Hazards Identification

ACUTE EXPOSURE:

- Can cause stomach ache, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and dehydration.
- Can also cause fatigue, abnormal heart rhythm, blood vessel damage, and impaired nerve function.
- Can cause sore throat and irritated lungs when inhaled.

CHRONIC EXPOSURE:

- Can cause skin changes such as darkened skin and warts on palms, soles, and torso.
- Ingestion and inhalation of arsenic can increase risk of liver, bladder, skin, kidney, prostate, and lung cancers.
- Can lead to an increased risk for diabetes and high blood pressure.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has a drinking water standard of 0.010 parts per million (ppm).



For assistance managing exposures to hazardous substances, please call North Carolina Poison Control at 1-800-222-1222.

In case of a life threatening emergency, dial 9-1-1 immediately.



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