

Formaldehyde

Your Right to Know

Summary:

Formaldehyde is on the Hazardous Substance List because it is regulated by OSHA and cited by NIOSH, ACGIH, IARC, DOT, NTP, CAG, NFPA, and EPA. This chemical is also on the Special Health Hazard Substance List because it is a carcinogen. There may be no safe level of exposure to a carcinogen, so all contact should be reduced to the lowest possible level.

Exposure Risks

Formaldehyde is a carcinogen. Handle with extreme caution. Formaldehyde can affect you when breathed and by passing through skin. Exposure irritates the eyes, nose, and throat and can cause skin and lung allergy. Higher levels can cause throat spasm and a buildup of fluid in the lungs, a medical emergency. Contact can cause severe eye and skin burns, leading to permanent damage.

Formaldehyde is a highly flammable liquid/gas and a dangerous fire hazard.

Formaldehyde based products were chamber-tested to determine the release of formaldehyde into the air. The highest emitter of acid-cured products were wood floor finishes that give glossy shine. In the wet products category, fingernail hardeners

and polishes were among the highest emitters. Other relatively high emissions came from freshly applied interior latex paint. Among dry products, certain permanent press items, such as shirts, pillow, and linens, gave off surprisingly high emissions because of the coatings applied to them.

Formaldehyde is a base product in most home products, including cabinets, insulation, counters, wallpapers and finishes.

People should be aware of how many different products contain this chemical, because it is up to them to minimize their exposures.

Do You Know Your Formaldehyde Exposure?

Passive dosimeters are the most convenient way to monitor your environment!

The *Kem Medical VAPOR-TRAK*[®] 8510 formaldehyde monitor has been validated for the OSHA 8-hour TWA exposure limit of 0.75 ppm and 2.0 ppm for a 15-minute STEL.

All VAPOR-TRAK[®] badges are:

- Accurate, with reproducible results
- Easy to Use
- Designed for personal and area monitoring
- Full validation studies available
- Phone Notification of High Results
- Technical Assistance
- Pre-paid return postage and laboratory analysis inclusive

