

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Dibenzofuran

CAS Number: 132-64-9

What is dibenzofuran?

Dibenzofuran is a white crystal-like solid that is created from the production of coal tar.

What is dibenzofuran used for?

Dibenzofuran is used as an insecticide and to make other chemicals. It is made from coal tar and has been found in coke dust, grate ash, fly ash, and flame soot.

How can it enter and leave your body?

Dibenzofuran can enter your body when you breathe contaminated air. It can also be absorbed into your body when it comes into contact with your skin.

How can you be exposed to dibenzofuran?

You can be exposed to dibenzofuran by breathing contaminated air or by eating or drinking contaminated food or water. Since it has been found in tobacco smoke, you can be exposed if you smoke cigarettes or breathe cigarette smoke.

In addition, you can be exposed to dibenzofuran if you work in an industry that makes or uses coal tar.

What are the health effects of exposure to dibenzofuran?

Little to no information is available on the effects of dibenzofuran exposure to your health. However, the information that does exist shows that short-term exposure to dibenzofuran can cause skin, eye, nose, and throat irritation.

What levels of exposure can result in

harmful health effects?

Very little information is available on the levels of exposure that will cause harmful effects. In addition to the skin, eye, nose and throat irritation caused by short-term exposure; long-term exposure can cause rashes and growths to appear on your skin. Your skin may also change color.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has determined that there is not enough information available to classify dibenzofuran as a cancer causing substance.

Where can you get more information?

If you have more questions or concerns, you can contact your state health or environmental department or:

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
Division of Toxicology
1600 Clifton Road, N.E., E-29
Atlanta, Georgia 30333

References

1. New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services. *Hazardous Substance Fact Sheet: Dibenzofuran*. Trenton, NJ: 1998.
2. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. *Health Effects Notebook for Hazardous Air Pollutants, Dibenzofuran*, Office of Air Planning & Standards, 1994.