

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Pentachlorobenzene

CAS Number: 608-93-5

What is pentachlorobenzene?

Pentachlorobenzene is a substance that looks like white or colorless crystals and has an odor. Pentachlorobenzene is a man-made substance that is used to make another chemical, pentachloronitrobenzene.

Therefore, pentachlorobenzene enters the environment when pentachloronitrobenzene is used.

What is pentachlorobenzene used for?

Pentachlorobenzene is used to make pentachloronitrobenzene, a fungicide. In addition, it has been and is currently used as a fire retardant.

How can pentachlorobenzene enter and leave your body?

Pentachlorobenzene can enter your body by eating or drinking contaminated food and water or by breathing contaminated air.

How can you be exposed to pentachlorobenzene?

You can be exposed to pentachlorobenzene if you work in a business or industry that makes the substance. Pentachlorobenzene can be released to the air during its production as well as during the application of pentachloronitrobenzene as a fungicide.

What are the health effects of exposure to pentachlorobenzene?

Short-term exposure to pentachlorobenzene

can affect the central nervous system. Long-term exposure can affect the liver and kidneys and can cause tissue lesions. Animal studies and tests show that pentachlorobenzene can possibly cause toxic effects on human reproduction.

What levels of exposure have resulted in harmful health effects?

Animal studies show that exposure of rats to 1080 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) of pentachlorobenzene resulted in the death of 50% of experimental animals. This number is called a lethal dose (LD₅₀). The LD₅₀ for mice exposed to pentachlorobenzene was 1175 mg/kg.

Where can you get more information?

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

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