

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

2,4,5-Trichlorophenol

CAS Number: 95-95-4

What is 2,4,5-trichlorophenol?

Grey in color and flaky in appearance; 2,4,5-trichlorophenol also looks like small needles. It has a really strong odor that smells like phenol (a poisonous crystal-looking compound). This man-made substance is not found naturally in the environment.

What is 2,4,5-trichlorophenol used for?

2,4,5-Trichlorophenol has several uses. The paper and pulp mills use 2,4,5-trichlorophenol as a fungicide to destroy or prevent fungi from growing. It is also used as a herbicide and to make other pesticides.

How can 2,4,5-trichlorophenol enter and leave your body?

2,4,5-Trichlorophenol can get into your body when you breathe contaminated air or it can be absorbed (pass through) by your skin if you touch it.

How can you be exposed to 2,4,5-trichlorophenol?

2,4,5-Trichlorophenol can be released into the air while it is being produced. It can also be released if it is burned. You can be exposed if you breathe contaminated air or touch 2,4,5-trichlorophenol. The most common source of exposure is for individuals who work in an industry that makes 2,4,5-trichlorophenol or for individuals responsible for applying pesticides. Low levels of 2,4,5-trichlorophenol can be found in air, food and in drinking water.

What are the health effects of exposure to 2,4,5-trichlorophenol?

If your skin comes into contact with 2,4,5-trichlorophenol, it may burn. It can also irritate your eyes, nose, pharynx and your lungs if you breathe it.

What levels of exposure have resulted in harmful health effects?

There is no information on the effects of long-term exposure to 2,4,5-trichlorophenol on humans. However, animal studies show that long-term exposure in rats through diet caused some slight decline in the liver and kidneys. No information is available on whether 2,4,5-trichlorophenol can cause cancer in humans. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has determined that 2,4,5-trichlorophenol is not classifiable regarding the likelihood of it causing cancer.

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

1. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. *Health Effects Notebook, for Hazardous Air Pollutants, 2,4,5-Trichlorophenol*. Washington, D.C.: Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards. 1994.
2. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Hazardous Substances Data Bank (HSDB, online database). National Library of Medicine Bethesda, MD, 2001.