

# 1,2,4,5-Tetrachlorobenzene

---

CAS Number: 95-94-3

## What is 1,2,4,5-tetrachlorobenzene?

1,2,4,5-Tetrachlorobenzene is an odorless man-made substance that can range in appearance from a colorless crystal to a white flaky or chunky solid.

## What is 1,2,4,5-tetrachlorobenzene used for?

1,2,4,5-Tetrachlorobenzene is used as an intermediate or building block to make herbicides, insecticides and defoliants. It is also used to make other chemicals like 2,4,5-trichlorophenol and 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid.

## How can 1,2,4,5-tetrachlorobenzene enter and leave your body?

1,2,4,5-Tetrachlorobenzene can enter your lungs if you breathe contaminated air. It can enter your body if you eat contaminated food or be absorbed through your skin if you come into contact with the substance.

## How can you be exposed to 1,2,4,5-tetrachlorobenzene?

If you work in a factory that makes or uses 1,2,4,5-tetrachlorobenzene, you can be exposed by breathing contaminated air. You could also be exposed if you eat contaminated food like fish or if your skin comes into contact with the substance.

## What are the health effects of exposure to 1,2,4,5-tetrachlorobenzene?

Exposure to 1,2,4,5-tetrachlorobenzene can

irritate or bother your eyes and skin and can affect your ability to breathe. It can also affect the mucous membranes. In addition, laboratory animals exposed to 1,2,4,5-tetrachlorobenzene experienced lesions, or changes to the liver and kidney.

## What levels of exposure have resulted in harmful health effects?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency established an oral reference dose (RfD) of 0.34 milligrams per kilogram per day for oral exposure to 1,2,4,5-tetrachlorobenzene. The RfD is an estimate of the highest daily oral exposure humans can be exposed to without resulting in harmful effects.

## 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. International Labor Organization. International Occupational Safety and Health Information Centre (CIS). *1,2,4,5-Tetrachlorobenzene ICSC*, 1994.
2. National Toxicity Program (NTP). *NTP Chemical Repository 1,2,4,5-Tetrachlorobenzene* (Radian Corporation, August 29, 1991)
3. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. *Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS)*

*on 1,2,4,5-Tetrachlorobenzene.*

Environmental Criteria and Assessment  
Office, Office of Health and Environmental  
Assessment, Cincinnati, OH.

4. U.S. Department of Health and Human  
Services. Hazardous Substances Data  
Bank (HSDB, online database). National  
Library of Medicine Bethesda, MD, 2001.