

# Our Environment

## The Situation

Many substances are potentially harmful to humans, animals, and the environment. They are in the air we breathe, in the food we eat, and on our skin. Chemicals in the workplace, home, and outdoors may pose a threat to our health.

## The Approach

Before we can reduce or eliminate environmental hazards, we have to identify them and evaluate their characteristics. To make credible decisions, we need quality information.

## The Solution

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) offers an array of free Web-based tools, including the TOXNET® system of databases, which provides information on toxicology, hazardous chemicals, and environmental health. NLM provides data that can help us assess the nature and severity of toxic hazards around us.

Retrieve profiles on chemicals



# TOXNET

With around-the-clock free access, TOXNET offers a variety of high-quality databases, some scientifically peer reviewed, in an easy-to-use interface, and includes links to additional sources of data on toxicology and environmental health. Information is compiled from federal agencies and peer-reviewed scientific sources.

## Using TOXNET

TOXNET's databases can be used to:

- Retrieve profiles on chemicals that can cause cancer, reproductive effects, and genetic mutations or otherwise disrupt health.
- Assist environmental health professionals, toxicologists, and community leaders in determining the potential environmental hazards to which a town's population may be exposed.
- Help pinpoint specific industries that pollute the environment and determine what chemicals are being released and in what quantities.

Assist community leaders



## TOXNET can help you find information on:

### • Arsenic in Drinking Water

What are the signs of short- and long-term arsenic exposure? Is there any treatment for arsenic poisoning?

> Search the **Hazardous Substances Data Bank**

### • Inhaled Carcinogens

What are some chemicals that have been shown to cause cancer in laboratory animals when inhaled?

> Search the **Chemical Carcinogenesis Research Information System**

### • Dioxins in Breast Milk

What articles review the danger to children of drinking breast milk contaminated with dioxins?

> Search **TOXLINE**

### • Ammonia Releases

How many pounds of ammonia were released in the area near your town in 2005?

> Search the release in **TOXMAP**

### • The Gasoline Additive MTBE

What is the full chemical name and what is the molecular structure of the gasoline additive MTBE? What other resources have information on this chemical's environmental health impact?

> Search **ChemIDplus**

### • The Tetanus Vaccine

Will a tetanus shot administered to a nursing mother cause any ill effects in the infant?

> Search **LactMed**

## TOXNET [toxnet.nlm.nih.gov](http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov)

Databases on toxicology, hazardous chemicals, environmental health, and toxic releases

**HSDB®**—Comprehensive, peer-reviewed toxicological data for over 5,000 chemicals

**IRIS**—Hazard identification and dose-response assessments for over 500 chemicals

**ITER**—Risk information for over 600 chemicals from authoritative groups worldwide

**TOXLINE®**—Bibliographic database of toxicological references

**TRI**—Annual environmental releases of over 600 toxic chemicals by U.S. facilities

**CCRIS**—Scientifically evaluated databank of over 9,000 chemicals with carcinogenicity, mutagenicity, tumor promotion, and tumor inhibition test results

**TOXMAP®**—Interactive environmental health maps showing locations of toxic chemical releases and hazardous waste sites

**ChemIDplus®**—Online dictionary of over 380,000 chemical substances cited in the NLM databases and other external Internet resources

**Haz-Map**—Occupational health database linking jobs and hazardous tasks with occupational diseases and their symptoms

**Household Products**—Potential health effects of chemicals in 7,000 common household products

**LactMed**—Database of over 500 drugs to which breastfeeding mothers may be exposed

## Additional Resources from NLM

### Enviro-Health Links

[sis.nlm.nih.gov/enviro/envirohealthlinks.html](http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/enviro/envirohealthlinks.html)

Links to Internet resources on selected toxicology and environmental health issues

### MEDLINE®/PubMed®

[pubmed.gov](http://pubmed.gov)

References to biomedical journals, including a toxicology subset

### Radiation Event Medical Management

[remm.nlm.gov](http://remm.nlm.gov)

A diagnostic and treatment tool kit designed for health care providers about clinical diagnosis and treatment during a radiological or nuclear event

### Tox Town®

[toxtown.nlm.nih.gov](http://toxtown.nlm.nih.gov)

Interactive guide to toxic substances and environmental health issues in everyday places

### Toxicology Tutorials

[sis.nlm.nih.gov/enviro/toxtutor.html](http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/enviro/toxtutor.html)

Three college level tutorials covering the principles of toxicology, toxicokinetics, and cellular toxicology

### ToxMystery®

[toxmystery.nlm.nih.gov](http://toxmystery.nlm.nih.gov)

Interactive site for kids 7-10 years old on potential environmental health hazards found in homes

### ToxSeek®

[toxseek.nlm.nih.gov](http://toxseek.nlm.nih.gov)

Metasearch and clustering engine for simultaneous searching of selected Web resources and databases

### WISER®

[wiser.nlm.nih.gov](http://wiser.nlm.nih.gov)

Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders with information on over 400 hazardous substances to assist first responders during hazardous materials incidents



National Institutes of Health  
Department of Health and Human Services  
1-888-FINDNLM  
[www.nlm.nih.gov](http://www.nlm.nih.gov)

April 2007



Is Your  
Environment  
Hazardous  
To Your  
Health?

for answers and  
information rely on the

Environmental Health and  
Toxicology Information Resources

from the National Library of Medicine

[tox.nlm.nih.gov](http://tox.nlm.nih.gov)

Locate industries that pollute

