

Right to Know Hazardous Substance Fact Sheet

Common Name: ETHYLENE GLYCOL

Synonyms: 1,2-Dihydroxyethane; Ethylene Alcohol

Chemical Name: 1,2-Ethanediol

Date: July 2002 Revision: July 2012

Description and Use

Ethylene Glycol is a clear, colorless, thick liquid. It is used as an antifreeze and in coolants, detergents, paints, lacquers, pharmaceuticals, adhesives and cosmetics.

► ODOR THRESHOLD = 62.5 ppm

 Odor thresholds vary greatly. Do not rely on odor alone to determine potentially hazardous exposures.

Reasons for Citation

- Ethylene Glycol is on the Right to Know Hazardous Substance List because it is cited by ACGIH, DOT, NIOSH, DEP, IRIS, NFPA and EPA.
- This chemical is on the Special Health Hazard Substance List.

SEE GLOSSARY ON PAGE 5.

FIRST AID

Eye Contact

Immediately flush with large amounts of water for at least 15 minutes, lifting upper and lower lids. Remove contact lenses, if worn, while rinsing.

Skin Contact

Quickly remove contaminated clothing. Immediately wash contaminated skin with large amounts of soap and water.

Inhalation

- ▶ Remove the person from exposure.
- Begin rescue breathing (using universal precautions) if breathing has stopped and CPR if heart action has stopped.
- Transfer promptly to a medical facility.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222 CHEMTREC: 1-800-424-9300 NJDEP Hotline: 1-877-927-6337 National Response Center: 1-800-424-8802

CAS Number:	107-21-1
RTK Substance Number:	0878
DOT Number:	None

EMERGENCY RESPONDERS >>>> SEE LAST PAGE

Hazard Summary						
Hazard Rating	NJDOH	NFPA				
HEALTH	-	2				
FLAMMABILITY	-	1				
REACTIVITY	-	0				

COMBUSTIBLE POISONOUS GASES ARE PRODUCED IN FIRE TERATOGEN

Hazard Rating Key: 0=minimal; 1=slight; 2=moderate; 3=serious; 4=severe

- Ethylene Glycol can affect you when inhaled and by passing through the skin.
- ► Ethylene Glycol may be a TERATOGEN. HANDLE WITH EXTREME CAUTION.
- ► Contact can irritate the skin and eyes.
- ► Inhaling Ethylene Glycol can irritate the nose and throat.
- Ethylene Glycol can cause nausea, vomiting, weakness and abdominal pain.
- Higher exposure can cause headache, dizziness, slurred speech, convulsions, loss of coordination, and even coma.
- Repeated or very high exposure may cause kidney damage and affect the brain.

Workplace Exposure Limits

- ACGIH: The threshold limit value (TLV) is **100 mg/m³** (as the *aerosol*), which should not be exceeded at any time.
- The above exposure limit is for air levels only. When skin contact also occurs, you may be overexposed, even though air levels are less than the limits listed above.
- Ethylene Glycol may be a teratogen in humans. All contact with this chemical should be reduced to the lowest possible level.

Determining Your Exposure

- Read the product manufacturer's Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) and the label to determine product ingredients and important safety and health information about the product mixture.
- ► For each individual hazardous ingredient, read the New Jersey Department of Health Hazardous Substance Fact Sheet, available on the RTK website (www.nj.gov/health/eoh/rtkweb) or in your facility's RTK Central File or Hazard Communication Standard file.
- ➤ You have a right to this information under the New Jersey Worker and Community Right to Know Act and the Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health (PEOSH) Act if you are a public worker in New Jersey, and under the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) if you are a private worker.
- The New Jersey Right to Know Act requires most employers to label chemicals in the workplace and requires public employers to provide their employees with information concerning chemical hazards and controls. The federal OSHA Hazard Communication Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200) and the PEOSH Hazard Communication Standard (N.J.A.C. 12:100-7) require employers to provide similar information and training to their employees.

This Fact Sheet is a summary of available information regarding the health hazards that may result from exposure. Duration of exposure, concentration of the substance and other factors will affect your susceptibility to any of the potential effects described below.

Health Hazard Information

Acute Health Effects

The following acute (short-term) health effects may occur immediately or shortly after exposure to **Ethylene Glycol**:

- Contact can irritate the skin and eyes.
- ► Inhaling Ethylene Glycol can irritate the nose and throat.
- Ethylene Glycol can cause nausea, vomiting, weakness and abdominal pain.
- Higher exposure can cause headache, dizziness, slurred speech, convulsions, loss of coordination, and even coma.

Chronic Health Effects

The following chronic (long-term) health effects can occur at some time after exposure to **Ethylene Glycol** and can last for months or years:

Cancer Hazard

While Ethylene Glycol has been tested, it is not classifiable as to its potential to cause cancer.

Reproductive Hazard

- Ethylene Glycol may be a TERATOGEN in humans since it is a teratogen in animals.
- Ethylene Glycol may damage the developing fetus.

Other Effects

 Repeated or very high exposure may cause kidney damage and affect the brain.

Medical

Medical Testing

If symptoms develop or overexposure is suspected, the following are recommended:

- Kidney function tests
- Exam of the nervous system
- ► EEG

Any evaluation should include a careful history of past and present symptoms with an exam. Medical tests that look for damage already done are <u>not</u> a substitute for controlling exposure.

You have a legal right to request copies of your medical testing under the OSHA Access to Employee Exposure and Medical Records Standard (29 CFR 1910.1020).

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Workplace Controls and Practices

Very toxic chemicals, or those that are reproductive hazards or sensitizers, require expert advice on control measures if a less toxic chemical cannot be substituted. Control measures include: (1) enclosing chemical processes for severely irritating and corrosive chemicals, (2) using local exhaust ventilation for chemicals that may be harmful with a single exposure, and (3) using general ventilation to control exposures to skin and eye irritants. For further information on workplace controls, consult the NIOSH document on Control Banding at www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/ctrlbanding/.

The following work practices are also recommended:

- ► Label process containers.
- ▶ Provide employees with hazard information and training.
- Monitor airborne chemical concentrations.
- Use engineering controls if concentrations exceed recommended exposure levels.
- ▶ Provide eye wash fountains and emergency showers.
- Wash or shower if skin comes in contact with a hazardous material.
- Always wash at the end of the workshift.
- Change into clean clothing if clothing becomes contaminated.
- ► Do not take contaminated clothing home.
- Get special training to wash contaminated clothing.
- Do not eat, smoke, or drink in areas where chemicals are being handled, processed or stored.
- Wash hands carefully before eating, smoking, drinking, applying cosmetics or using the toilet.

Personal Protective Equipment

The OSHA Personal Protective Equipment Standard (29 CFR 1910.132) requires employers to determine the appropriate personal protective equipment for each hazard and to train employees on how and when to use protective equipment.

The following recommendations are only guidelines and may not apply to every situation.

Gloves and Clothing

- Avoid skin contact with Ethylene Glycol. Wear personal protective equipment made from material that can not be permeated or degraded by this substance. Safety equipment suppliers and manufacturers can provide recommendations on the most protective glove and clothing material for your operation.
- The recommended glove materials for Ethylene Glycol are Butyl, Nitrile, Neoprene, Natural Rubber, Silver Shield®/4H®, Viton, Viton/Butyl and Barrier®.
- The recommended protective clothing materials for Ethylene Glycol are Tychem® SL, BR, CSM and TK; and Trellchem® HPS and VPS, or the equivalent.
- All protective clothing (suits, gloves, footwear, headgear) should be clean, available each day, and put on before work.

Eye Protection

Wear indirect vent goggles when working with liquids that may splash, spray or mist. A face shield is also required if the liquid is severely irritating or corrosive to the skin and eyes.

Respiratory Protection

Improper use of respirators is dangerous. Respirators should only be used if the employer has implemented a written program that takes into account workplace conditions, requirements for worker training, respirator fit testing, and medical exams, as described in the OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard (29 CFR 1910.134). Only NIOSH approved respirators should be used.

- Where the potential exists for exposure over 100 mg/m³, use a respirator with a combination organic vapor and P100 cartridge. Increased protection is obtained from full facepiece powered-air purifying respirators.
- Leave the area immediately if (1) while wearing a filter or cartridge respirator you can smell, taste, or otherwise detect Ethylene Glycol, (2) while wearing particulate filters abnormal resistance to breathing is experienced, or (3) eye irritation occurs while wearing a full facepiece respirator. Check to make sure the respirator-to-face seal is still good. If it is, replace the filter or cartridge. If the seal is no longer good, you may need a new respirator.
- Consider all potential sources of exposure in your workplace. You may need a combination of filters, prefilters or cartridges to protect against different forms of a chemical (such as vapor and mist) or against a mixture of chemicals.
- Where the potential for overexposure exists, use a suppliedair respirator with a full facepiece operated in a pressuredemand or other positive-pressure mode. For increased protection use in combination with an auxiliary self-contained breathing apparatus or an emergency escape air cylinder.

Fire Hazards

If employees are expected to fight fires, they must be trained and equipped as stated in the OSHA Fire Brigades Standard (29 CFR 1910.156).

- Ethylene Glycol is a COMBUSTIBLE LIQUID.
- ► Use dry chemical, CO₂, water spray or alcohol-resistant foam as extinguishing agents.
- ▶ POISONOUS GASES ARE PRODUCED IN FIRE.
- ► Use water spray to keep fire-exposed containers cool.

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Spills and Emergencies

If employees are required to clean-up spills, they must be properly trained and equipped. The OSHA Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Standard (29 CFR 1910.120) may apply.

If **Ethylene Glycol** is spilled or leaked, take the following steps:

- Evacuate personnel and secure and control entrance to the area.
- ► Eliminate all ignition sources.
- ► Absorb liquids in dry sand, earth, or a similar material and place into sealed containers for disposal.
- ► Ventilate and wash area after clean-up is complete.
- It may be necessary to contain and dispose of Ethylene Glycol as a HAZARDOUS WASTE. Contact your state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) or your regional office of the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for specific recommendations.

Handling and Storage

Prior to working with **Ethylene Glycol** you should be trained on its proper handling and storage.

- ▶ Ethylene Glycol is not compatible with OXIDIZING AGENTS (such as PERCHLORATES, PEROXIDES, PERMANGANATES, CHLORATES, NITRATES, CHLORINE, BROMINE and FLUORINE); STRONG ACIDS (such as HYDROCHLORIC, SULFURIC and NITRIC); STRONG BASES (such as SODIUM HYDROXIDE and POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE); ALIPHATIC AMINES; ISOCYANATES; CHLOROSULFONIC ACID; and OLEUM.
- Store in tightly closed containers in a cool, well-ventilated area away from MOISTURE.
- Sources of ignition, such as smoking and open flames, are prohibited where Ethylene Glycol is used, handled, or stored in a manner that could create a potential fire or explosion hazard.

Occupational Health Information Resources

The New Jersey Department of Health offers multiple services in occupational health. These services include providing informational resources, educational materials, public presentations, and industrial hygiene and medical investigations and evaluations.

For more information, please contact:

New Jersey Department of Health Right to Know PO Box 368 Trenton, NJ 08625-0368 Phone: 609-984-2202 Fax: 609-984-7407 E-mail: rtk@doh.state.nj.us Web address: http://www.nj.gov/health/eoh/rtkweb

The Right to Know Hazardous Substance Fact Sheets are not intended to be copied and sold for commercial purposes.

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GLOSSARY

ACGIH is the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists. They publish guidelines called Threshold Limit Values (TLVs) for exposure to workplace chemicals.

Acute Exposure Guideline Levels (AEGLs) are established by the EPA. They describe the risk to humans resulting from once-in-a lifetime, or rare, exposure to airborne chemicals.

Boiling point is the temperature at which a substance can change its physical state from a liquid to a gas.

A carcinogen is a substance that causes cancer.

The **CAS number** is unique, identifying number, assigned by the Chemical Abstracts Service, to a specific chemical.

CFR is the Code of Federal Regulations, which are the regulations of the United States government.

A combustible substance is a solid, liquid or gas that will burn.

A **corrosive** substance is a gas, liquid or solid that causes destruction of human skin or severe corrosion of containers.

The **critical temperature** is the temperature above which a gas cannot be liquefied, regardless of the pressure applied.

DEP is the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

DOT is the Department of Transportation, the federal agency that regulates the transportation of chemicals.

EPA is the Environmental Protection Agency, the federal agency responsible for regulating environmental hazards.

ERG is the Emergency Response Guidebook. It is a guide for emergency responders for transportation emergencies involving hazardous substances.

Emergency Response Planning Guideline (ERPG) values provide estimates of concentration ranges where one reasonably might anticipate observing adverse effects.

A fetus is an unborn human or animal.

A **flammable** substance is a solid, liquid, vapor or gas that will ignite easily and burn rapidly.

The **flash point** is the temperature at which a liquid or solid gives off vapor that can form a flammable mixture with air.

IARC is the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a scientific group.

Ionization Potential is the amount of energy needed to remove an electron from an atom or molecule. It is measured in electron volts.

IRIS is the Integrated Risk Information System database on human health effects that may result from exposure to various chemicals, maintained by federal EPA.

LEL or **Lower Explosive Limit**, is the lowest concentration of a combustible substance (gas or vapor) in the air capable of continuing an explosion.

mg/m³ means milligrams of a chemical in a cubic meter of air. It is a measure of concentration (weight/volume).

A **mutagen** is a substance that causes mutations. A **mutation** is a change in the genetic material in a body cell. Mutations can lead to birth defects, miscarriages, or cancer.

NFPA is the National Fire Protection Association. It classifies substances according to their fire and explosion hazard.

NIOSH is the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. It tests equipment, evaluates and approves respirators, conducts studies of workplace hazards, and proposes standards to OSHA.

NTP is the National Toxicology Program which tests chemicals and reviews evidence for cancer.

OSHA is the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which adopts and enforces health and safety standards.

PEOSHA is the New Jersey Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health Act, which adopts and enforces health and safety standards in public workplaces.

Permeated is the movement of chemicals through protective materials.

ppm means parts of a substance per million parts of air. It is a measure of concentration by volume in air.

Protective Action Criteria (PAC) are values established by the Department of Energy and are based on AEGLs and ERPGs. They are used for emergency planning of chemical release events.

A **reactive** substance is a solid, liquid or gas that releases energy under certain conditions.

STEL is a Short Term Exposure Limit which is usually a 15minute exposure that should not be exceeded at any time during a work day.

A **teratogen** is a substance that causes birth defects by damaging the fetus.

UEL or **Upper Explosive Limit** is the highest concentration in air above which there is too much fuel (gas or vapor) to begin a reaction or explosion.

Vapor Density is the ratio of the weight of a given volume of one gas to the weight of another (usually *Air*), at the same temperature and pressure.

The **vapor pressure** is a force exerted by the vapor in equilibrium with the solid or liquid phase of the same substance. The higher the vapor pressure the higher concentration of the substance in air.



Common Name: ETHYLENE GLYCOL

Synonyms: 1,2-Dihydroxyethane; 1,2-Ethanediol; Ethylene Alcohol CAS No: 107-21-1 Molecular Formula: $C_2H_6O_2$ RTK Substance No: 0878 Description: Clear, colorless, thick liquid

HAZARD DATA						
Hazard Rating	Firefighting		Reactivity			
2 - Health 1 - Fire 0 - Reactivity DOT#: None ERG Guide #: 171 Hazard Class: None	COMBUSTIBLE LIQUID Use dry chemical, CO ₂ , water spray or alcohol-resistant foam as extinguishing agents. POISONOUS GASES ARE PRODUCED IN FIRE. Use water spray to keep fire-exposed		Ethylene Glycol is not compatible with OXIDIZING AGENTS (such as PERCHLORATES, PEROXIDES, PERMANGANATES, CHLORATES, NITRATES, CHLORINE, BROMINE and FLUORINE); STRONG ACIDS (such as HYDROCHLORIC, SULFURIC and NITRIC); STRONG BASES (such as SODIUM HYDROXIDE and POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE); ALIPHATIC AMINES; ISOCYANATES; CHLOROSULFONIC ACID; and OLEUM.			
SPIL	L/LEAKS	Í		PH	PHYSICAL PROPERTIES	
			Vapor Do Vapor Pr Specific Water So Boiling F Freezing Critical 1	int: ition Temp: ensity: ressure: Gravity: olubility: Point: Point:	62.5 ppm 232°F (111°C) 3.2% 15.3% 748°F (398°C) 2.14 (air = 1) 0.05 mm Hg at 68°F (20°C) 1.1 (water = 1) Soluble 387°F (197°C) 8.6°F (-13°C) 833°F (445°C) 62.07	
EXPOS	EXPOSURE LIMITS			PRO		
ACGIH: 100 mg/m ³ ; Ceiling (<i>aerosol</i> only) The Protective Action Criteria values are: PAC-1 = 25 mg/m ³ PAC-2 = 100 mg/m ³ PAC-3 = 150 mg/m ³			Gloves: Coverall Respirat	Shie brea s: Tych and or: >25	I, Nitrile, Neoprene, Natural Rubber, Silver Id®/4H®, Viton, Viton/Butyl and Barrier® (>8-hr Ikthrough) hem® SL, BR, CSM and TK; and Trellchem® HPS VPS (>8-hr breakthrough) mg/m ³ - full facepiece APR with <i>Organic vapor</i> and <i>P100 cartridges</i> D mg/m ³ or fire - SCBA	
HEALT	HEALTH EFFECTS FIRST AID AND DECONTAMINATION					
Eyes:IrritationSkin:IrritationInhalation:Nose andChronic:Headache	throat irritation e, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, eech, convulsions, coma		 Remove the person from exposure. Flush eyes with large amounts of water for at least 15 minutes. Remove contact lenses. Quickly remove contaminated clothing and wash contaminated skin with large amounts of soap and water. Begin artificial respiration if breathing has stopped and CPR if necessary. Transfer promptly to a medical facility. 			