



Defining Toxic Chemicals

Non-technical descriptions answer "What is mercury?" "How might I be exposed?" and "How can mercury affect my health?" for mercury and more than 20 other toxic chemicals.



Environmental Health Concerns

Molds, noise, pest control, air quality, drinking water, occupational hazards, and safety issues are just some of the health concerns pictured and explained in Tox Town.



Educating the Public

Tox Town is recommended for high school and college students, educators, and the concerned public.



Available in Spanish

A growing number of resources *en español* are included.



A Resource You Can Trust

Tox Town links to reliable science-based information from the National Institutes of Health and other authoritative sources.

<http://toxtown.nlm.nih.gov>



Stroll Through the Neighborhoods

Click on locations pictured in the City, Town, Farms, US-Mexico Border, and other neighborhoods to learn about chemicals and other hazards.



Picture This

Click on a chemical to see where it might be found in a neighborhood and to learn more about it.

ARSENIC

What is arsenic?

Arsenic is a silver-gray or white-metallic element that occurs naturally in the earth's crust. It is odorless and nearly tasteless. The chemical symbol for arsenic is As. Pure arsenic is a metal and is rare in the environment; arsenic is usually found combined with one or more other elements, such as oxygen or chlorine. Arsenic

What is arsenic?
 • Arsenic (with links from the National Library of Medicine)
 • Chromiumated Copper Arsenate (CCA) and its Use as a Wood Preservative (Environmental Protection Agency)
 • Drinking Water Standard for Arsenic (Environmental Protection Agency)
 • Arsenic, ToxFaqs (Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry)
 • Arsenic Compounds, Hazardous Substances Data Bank (National Library of Medicine)

Where may be found in drinking water, treated wood, industrial sites.

Arsenic | Asbestos | Benzene | Carbon Monoxide | Chromium | Lead | More Chemicals

Text Version
Toxic last revised 9/20/03
Close Window

Take a Closer Look

Open a cutaway view of a home, hospital, school, or office for inside information on environmental hazards.

Homes

- Healthy Homes
- Chemicals at Home

Web links from MedlinePlus (National Library of Medicine)

- Drinking Water
- Household Poisons
- Indoor Air
- Molds
- Pesticides
- Poisoning
- Secondhand Smoke

Glossary of with Hazard (Environmental Protection Agency)

Household Hazardous Waste (National Library of Medicine)

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Arsenic
Asbestos
Benzene
Carbon Monoxide
Chromium
Lead
Mercury
Nitrogen Oxides
Particulate Matter
Pesticides
Phthalates
Radon
Sulfur Dioxide
Toluene
Volatile Organic Compounds

Welcome to Tox Town

People are exposed to environmental hazards every day and are often unaware of the potential risks to their health. **Tox Town** is the National Library of Medicine's interactive Web site about commonly encountered toxic substances, the environment, and health.

Enhanced with lively graphics, sound effects, and animation, **Tox Town** brings to life the everyday locations where you might encounter mercury, lead, cleaning products, radon, solvents, and other potential hazards.

Visitors can take a virtual stroll through the friendly neighborhoods and click on locations like a school, hospital, construction site, factory, or farm for non-technical information on hazards.

Tox Town illustrates a wide range of environmental health issues, including smog, drinking water pollution, asbestos in schools, on-the-job safety, pesticides, and many more.



Also from the National Library of Medicine

Household Products Database: Chemical ingredients in household products and manufacturer-issued safety information (<http://householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov>)

Haz-Map: Occupational health information on the connection between work exposures and disease (<http://hazmap.nlm.nih.gov>)

MedlinePlus: Health and drug information for consumers (<http://medlineplus.gov>)

TOXNET: Databases on toxic chemicals and environmental health (<http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov>)

MEDLINE/PubMed: Index to biomedical journals (<http://pubmed.gov>)

National Library of Medicine main Web site (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov>)

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<http://toxtown.nlm.nih.gov>



Tox Town

Toxic chemicals and environmental health risks where you live and work