

**TOXICOLOGICAL PROFILE FOR
2,4- and 2,6-DINITROTOLUENE**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Public Health Service
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

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DISCLAIMER

The use of company or product name(s) is for identification only and does not imply endorsement by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

UPDATE STATEMENT

A Toxicological Profile for 2,4- and 2,6-dinitrotoluene was released in September 1997. This edition supersedes any previously released draft or final profile.

Toxicological profiles are revised and republished as necessary, but no less than once every three years. For information regarding the update status of previously released profiles, contact ATSDR at:

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
Division of Toxicology/Toxicology Information Branch
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Atlanta, Georgia 30333

FOREWORD

This toxicological profile is prepared in accordance with guidelines* developed by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The original guidelines were published in the *Federal Register* on April 17, 1987. Each profile will be revised and republished as necessary.

The ATSDR toxicological profile succinctly characterizes the toxicologic and adverse health effects information for the hazardous substance described therein. Each peer-reviewed profile identifies and reviews the key literature that describes a hazardous substance's toxicologic properties. Other pertinent literature is also presented, but is described in less detail than the key studies. The profile is not intended to be an exhaustive document; however, more comprehensive sources of specialty information are referenced.

The focus of the profiles is on health and toxicologic information; therefore, each toxicological profile begins with a public health statement that describes, in nontechnical language, a substance's relevant toxicological properties. Following the public health statement is information concerning levels of significant human exposure and, where known, significant health effects. The adequacy of information to determine a substance's health effects is described in a health effects summary. Data needs that are of significance to protection of public health are identified by ATSDR and EPA.

Each profile includes the following:

- (A) The examination, summary, and interpretation of available toxicologic information and epidemiologic evaluations on a hazardous substance to ascertain the levels of significant human exposure for the substance and the associated acute, subacute, and chronic health effects;
- (B) A determination of whether adequate information on the health effects of each substance is available or in the process of development to determine levels of exposure that present a significant risk to human health of acute, subacute, and chronic health effects; and
- (C) Where appropriate, identification of toxicologic testing needed to identify the types or levels of exposure that may present significant risk of adverse health effects in humans.

The principal audiences for the toxicological profiles are health professionals at the Federal, State, and local levels; interested private sector organizations and groups; and members of the public.

This profile reflects ATSDR's assessment of all relevant toxicologic testing and information that has been peer-reviewed. Staff of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other Federal scientists have also reviewed the profile. In addition, this profile has been peer-reviewed by a nongovernmental panel and was made available for public review. Final responsibility for the contents and views expressed in this toxicological profile resides with ATSDR.



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*Legislative Background

The toxicological profiles are developed in response to the Super-fund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986 (Public Law 99-499) which amended the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA or Superfund). This public law directed ATSDR to prepare toxicological profiles for hazardous substances most commonly found at facilities on the CERCLA National Priorities List and that pose the most significant potential threat to human health, as determined by ATSDR and the EPA. The availability of the revised priority list of 275 hazardous substances was announced in the Federal Register on November 17, 1997 (62 FR 61332). For prior versions of the list of substances, see Federal Register notices dated April 29, 1996 (61 FR 18744); April 17, 1987 (52 FR 12866); October 20, 1988 (53 FR 41280); October 26, 1989 (54 FR 43619); October 17, 1990 (55 FR 42067); October 17, 1991 (56 FR 52166); October 28, 1992 (57 FR 48801); and February 28, 1994 (59 FR 9486). Section 104(i)(3) of CERCLA, as amended, directs the Administrator of ATSDR to prepare a toxicological profile for each substance on the list.

QUICK REFERENCE FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Toxicological Profiles are a unique compilation of toxicological information on a given hazardous substance. Each profile reflects a comprehensive and extensive evaluation, summary, and interpretation of available toxicologic and epidemiologic information on a substance. Health care providers treating patients potentially exposed to hazardous substances will find the following information helpful for fast answers to often-asked questions.

Primary Chapters/Sections of Interest

Chapter 1: Public Health Statement: The Public Health Statement can be a useful tool for educating patients about possible exposure to a hazardous substance. It explains a substance's relevant toxicologic properties in a nontechnical, question-and-answer format, and it includes a review of the general health effects observed following exposure.

Chapter 2: Health Effects: Specific health effects of a given hazardous compound are reported by *route of exposure*, by *type of health effect* (death, systemic, immunologic, reproductive), and by *length of exposure* (acute, intermediate, and chronic). In addition, both human and animal studies are reported in this section.

NOTE: Not all health effects reported in this section are necessarily observed in the clinical setting. Please refer to the Public Health Statement to identify general health effects observed following exposure.

Pediatrics: Four new sections have been added to each Toxicological Profile to address child health issues:

Section 1.6 How Can (Chemical X) Affect Children?

Section 1.7 How Can Families Reduce the Risk of Exposure to (Chemical X)?

Section 2.6 Children's Susceptibility

Section 5.6 Exposures of Children

Other Sections of Interest:

Section 2.7 Biomarkers of Exposure and Effect

Section 2.10 Methods for Reducing Toxic Effects

ATSDR Information Center

Phone: 1-800-447-1544 (to be replaced by 1-888-42-ATSDR in 1999)

or 404-639-6357 **Fax:** 404-639-6359

E-mail: atsdric@cdc.gov **Internet:** <http://atsdrl.atsdr.cdc.gov:8080>

The following additional material can be ordered through the ATSDR Information Center:

Case Studies in Environmental Medicine: Taking an Exposure History-The importance of taking an exposure history and how to conduct one are described, and an example of a thorough exposure history is provided. Other case studies of interest include *Reproductive and Developmental Hazards*; *Skin Lesions and Environmental Exposures*; *Cholinesterase-Inhibiting Pesticide Toxicity*; and numerous chemical-specific case studies.

Managing Hazardous Materials Incidents is a three-volume set of recommendations for on-scene (prehospital) and hospital medical management of patients exposed during a hazardous materials incident. Volumes I and II are planning guides to assist first responders and hospital emergency department personnel in planning for incidents that involve hazardous materials. Volume III-*Medical Management Guidelines for Acute Chemical Exposures*-is a guide for health care professionals treating patients exposed to hazardous materials.

Fact Sheets (ToxFAQs) provide answers to frequently asked questions about toxic substances.

Other Agencies and Organizations

The National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) focuses on preventing or controlling disease, injury, and disability related to the interactions between people and their environment outside the workplace. *Contact:* NCEH, Mailstop F-29,4770 Buford Highway, NE, Atlanta, GA 30341-3724 | Phone: 770-488-7000 | FAX: 770-488-7015.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) conducts research on occupational diseases and injuries, responds to requests for assistance by investigating problems of health and safety in the workplace, recommends standards to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), and trains professionals in occupational safety and health. *Contact:* NIOSH, 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20201 | Phone: 800-356-4674 or NIOSH Technical Information Branch, Robert A. Taft Laboratory, Mailstop C-19,4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45226-1998 | Phone: 800-35-NIOSH.

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) is the principal federal agency for biomedical research on the effects of chemical, physical, and biologic environmental agents on human health and well-being. *Contact:* NIEHS, PO Box 12233,104 T.W. Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709 | Phone: 919-541-3212.

Referrals

The Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics (AOEC) has developed a network of clinics in the United States to provide expertise in occupational and environmental issues. *Contact:* AOEC, 1010 Vermont Avenue, NW, #513, Washington, DC 20005 | Phone: 202-347-4976 | FAX: 202-347-4950 | e-mail: aoec@dgs.dgsys.com | AOEC Clinic Director: <http://occ-envmed.mc.duke.edu/oem/aoec.htm>.

The American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) is an association of physicians and other health care providers specializing in the field of occupational and environmental medicine. *Contact:* ACOEM, 55 West Seegers Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005 | Phone: 847-228-6850 | FAX: 847-228-1856.

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THE PROFILE HAS UNDERGONE THE FOLLOWING ATSDR INTERNAL REVIEWS:

- 1 . Health Effects Review. The Health Effects Review Committee examines the health effects chapter of each profile for consistency and accuracy in interpreting health effects and classifying end points.
- 2 . Minimal Risk Level Review. The Minimal Risk Level Workgroup considers issues relevant to substance-specific minimal risk levels (MRLs), reviews the health effects database of each profile, and makes recommendations for derivation of MRLs.
- 3 . Data Needs Review. The Research Implementation Branch reviews data needs sections to assure consistency across profiles and adherence to instructions in the Guidance.

PEER REVIEW

A peer review panel was assembled for 2,4- and 2,6-dinitrotoluene. The panel consisted of the following members:

- 1 . G.A. Shakeel Ansari, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Human Biological Chemistry and Genetics, and Department of Pathology, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX.
- 2 . James Klaunig, Ph.D., Professor and Director of Toxicology, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Division of Toxicology, School of Medicine, Indiana University, Indianapolis, IN.
- 3 . Gary Stoner, Ph.D., Professor and Chair, Division of Environmental Health Sciences, School of Public Health, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH.
- 4 . William J. George, Ph.D., Professor and Director of Toxicology, Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, LA.
- 5 . Gerald Kennedy, DuPont/Haskell Lab., Newark, DE.

These experts collectively have knowledge of 2,4- and 2,6-dinitrotoluene's physical and chemical properties, toxicokinetics, key health end points, mechanisms of action, human and animal exposure, and quantification of risk to humans. All reviewers were selected in conformity with the conditions for peer review specified in Section 104(i)(13) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended.

Scientists from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) have reviewed the peer reviewers' comments and determined which comments will be included in the profile. A listing of the peer reviewers' comments not incorporated in the profile, with a brief explanation of the rationale for their exclusion, exists as part of the administrative record for this compound. A list of databases reviewed and a list of unpublished documents cited are also included in the administrative record.

The citation of the peer review panel should not be understood to imply its approval of the profile's final content. The responsibility for the content of this profile lies with the ATSDR.

CONTENTS

FOREWORD	v
QUICK REFERENCE FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS	vii
CONTRIBUTORS	ix
PEER REVIEW	xi
LIST OF FIGURES	xvii
LIST OF TABLES	xix
1. PUBLIC HEALTH STATEMENT	1
1.1 WHAT ARE 2,4- AND 2,6-DINITROTOLUENE?	1
1.2 WHAT HAPPENS TO 2,4- AND 2,6-DINITROTOLUENE WHEN THEY ENTER THE ENVIRONMENT?	2
1.3 HOW MIGHT I BE EXPOSED TO 2,4- AND 2,6-DINITROTOLUENE?	3
1.4 HOW CAN 2,4- AND 2,6-DINITROTOLUENE ENTER AND LEAVE MY BODY?	3
1.5 HOW CAN 2,4- AND 2,6-DINITROTOLUENE AFFECT MY HEALTH?	4
1.6 HOW CAN 2,4- AND 2,6-DINITROTOLUENE AFFECT CHILDREN?	5
1.7 HOW CAN FAMILIES REDUCE THE RISK OF EXPOSURE TO 2,4- AND 2,6-DINITROTOLUENE?	5
1.8 IS THERE A MEDICAL TEST TO DETERMINE WHETHER I HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO 2,4- AND 2,6-DINITROTOLUENE?	6
1.9 WHAT RECOMMENDATIONS HAS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MADE TO PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH?	6
1.10 WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?	7
2. HEALTH EFFECTS	9
2.1 INTRODUCTION	9
2.2 DISCUSSION OF HEALTH EFFECTS BY ROUTE OF EXPOSURE	9
2.2.1 Inhalation Exposure	11
2.2.1.1 Death	11
2.2.1.2 Systemic Effects	12
2.2.1.3 Immunological and Lymphoreticular Effects	14
2.2.1.4 Neurological Effects	15
2.2.1.5 Reproductive Effects	15
2.2.1.6 Developmental Effects	16
2.2.1.7 Genotoxic Effects	16
2.2.1.8 Cancer	16
2.2.2 Oral Exposure	17
2.2.2.1 Death	17
2.2.2.2 Systemic Effects	19
2.2.2.3 Immunological and Lymphoreticular Effects	51
2.2.2.4 Neurological Effects	52
2.2.2.5 Reproductive Effects	54

2.2.2.6	Developmental Effects	56
2.2.2.7	Genotoxic Effects	57
2.2.2.8	Cancer	57
2.2.3	Dermal Exposure	60
2.2.3.1	Death	60
2.2.3.2	Systemic Effects	60
2.2.3.3	Immunological and Lymphoreticular Effects	62
2.2.3.4	Neurological Effects	62
2.2.3.5	Reproductive Effects	63
2.2.3.6	Developmental Effects	63
2.2.3.7	Genotoxic Effects	63
2.2.3.8	Cancer	63
2.3	TOXICOKINETICS	63
2.3.1	Absorption	63
2.3.1.1	Inhalation Exposure	63
2.3.1.2	Oral Exposure	64
2.3.1.3	Dermal Exposure	64
2.3.2	Distribution	64
2.3.2.1	Inhalation Exposure	64
2.3.2.2	Oral Exposure	65
2.3.2.3	Dermal Exposure	66
2.3.3	Metabolism	66
2.3.4	Elimination and Excretion	73
2.3.4.1	Inhalation Exposure	73
2.3.4.2	Oral Exposure	73
2.3.4.3	Dermal Exposure	74
2.3.5	Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic (PBPK)/Pharmacodynamic (PD) Models	75
2.4	MECHANISMS OF ACTION	76
2.4.1	Pharmacokinetic Mechanisms	76
2.4.2	Mechanisms of Toxicity	78
2.4.3	Animal-to-Human Extrapolations	79
2.5	RELEVANCE TO PUBLIC HEALTH	80
2.6	CHILDREN'S SUSCEPTIBILITY	97
2.7	BIOMARKERS OF EXPOSURE AND EFFECT	99
2.7.1	Biomarkers Used to Identify or Quantify Exposure to 2,4- and 2,6-Dinitrotoluene	101
2.7.2	Biomarkers Used to Characterize Effects Caused by 2,4- and 2,6-Dinitrotoluene	101
2.8	INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER CHEMICALS	102
2.9	POPULATIONS THAT ARE UNUSUALLY SUSCEPTIBLE	103
2.10	METHODS FOR REDUCING TOXIC EFFECTS	103
2.10.1	Reducing Peak Absorption Following Exposure	104
2.10.2	Reducing Body Burden	104
2.10.3	Interfering with the Mechanism of Action for Toxic Effects	104
2.11	ADEQUACY OF THE DATABASE	105
2.11.1	Existing Information on Health Effects of 2,4- and 2,6-Dinitrotoluene	105
2.11.2	Identification of Data Needs	106
2.11.3	Ongoing Studies	116
3.	CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL INFORMATION	117
3.1	CHEMICAL IDENTITY	117

3.2	PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES	117
4.	PRODUCTION, IMPORT/EXPORT, USE, AND DISPOSAL	121
4.1	PRODUCTION	121
4.2	IMPORT/EXPORT	121
4.3	USE	121
4.4	DISPOSAL	124
5.	POTENTIAL FOR HUMAN EXPOSURE	125
5.1	OVERVIEW	125
5.2	RELEASES TO THE ENVIRONMENT	128
5.2.1	Air	128
5.2.2	Water	131
5.2.3	Soil	132
5.3	ENVIRONMENTAL FATE	132
5.3.1	Transport and Partitioning	132
5.3.2	Transformation and Degradation	134
5.3.2.1	Air	134
5.3.2.2	Water	134
5.3.2.3	Sediment and Soil	137
5.4	LEVELS MONITORED OR ESTIMATED IN THE ENVIRONMENT	137
5.4.1	Air	137
5.4.2	Water	138
5.4.3	Sediment and Soil	138
5.4.4	Other Environmental Media	139
5.5	GENERAL POPULATION AND OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE	139
5.6	EXPOSURES OF CHILDREN	140
5.7	POPULATIONS WITH POTENTIALLY HIGH EXPOSURES	142
5.8	ADEQUACY OF THE DATABASE	142
5.8.1	Identification of Data Needs	143
5.8.2	Ongoing Studies	146
6.	ANALYTICAL METHODS	147
6.1	BIOLOGICAL SAMPLES	147
6.2	ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES	148
6.3	ADEQUACY OF THE DATABASE	152
6.3.1	Identification of Data Needs	152
6.3.2	Ongoing Studies	160
7.	REGULATIONS AND ADVISORIES	161
8.	REFERENCES	167
9.	GLOSSARY	193

APPENDICES

A. ATSDR MINIMAL RISK LEVELS AND WORKSHEETS A-1

B. USER'S GUIDE B-1

C. ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND SYMBOLS C-1

LIST OF FIGURES

2-1	Levels of Significant Exposure to 2,4-DNT - Oral	33
2-2	Levels of Significant Exposure to 2,6-DNT - Oral	41
2-3	Proposed Metabolic Pathways for the Hepatic Metabolism of 2,4-DNT	67
2-4	Proposed Pathways for the Anaerobic Metabolism of 2,4-DNT in Rat Intestinal Microflora	68
2-5	Proposed Pathways for Metabolism of 2,6-DNT	69
2-6	Conceptual Representation of a Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic (PBPK) Model for a Hypothetical Chemical Substance	77
2-7	Existing Information on Health Effects of 2,4-DNT	107
2-8	Existing Information on Health Effects of 2,6-DNT	108
2-9	Existing Information on Health Effects of Technical Grade-DNT	109
5-1	Frequency of NPL Sites with 2,4-DNT Contamination	126
5-2	Frequency of NPL Sites with 2,6-DNT Contamination	127

LIST OF TABLES

2-1	Levels of Significant Exposure to 2,4-DNT - Oral	20
2-2	Levels of Significant Exposure to 2,6-DNT - Oral	36
2-3	Genotoxicity of 2,4-DNT <i>In Vitro</i>	90
2-4	Genotoxicity of 2,6-DNT <i>In Vitro</i>	92
2-5	Genotoxicity of Technical Grade DNT	94
2-6	Genotoxicity of 2,4-DNT <i>In Vivo</i>	95
3-1	Chemical Identity of 2,4-DNT and 2,6-DNT	118
3-2	Physical and Chemical Properties of 2,4-DNT and 2,6-DNT	119
4-1	Facilities that Manufacture or Process 2,4-DNT	122
4-2	Facilities that Manufacture or Process 2,6-DNT	123
5-1	Releases to the Environment from Facilities that Manufacture or Process 2,4-DNT	129
5-2	Releases to the Environment from Facilities that Manufacture or Process 2,6-DNT	130
6-1	Analytical Methods for Determining DNT in Biological Samples	149
6-2	Analytical Methods for Determining DNT in Environmental Samples	153
7-1	Regulations and Guidelines Applicable to 2,4-DNT and 2,6-DNT	162

