## What is Benzene?

Benzene is considered a known human carcinogen by the scientific community and has been found in consumer products and as a contaminant in drinking water. In addition to causing acute nonlymphocytic leukemia and possibly other types of leukemia, multiple myeloma and non-hodgkin's lymphoma, this chemical has been linked to reproductive and developmental toxicity, and damage to the nervous system.

## Where is Benzene Found?

Benzene has been found in **drinking water, sunscreens, shampoos, detergents**, and **fragrances**. Federal law allows for fragrance to be listed as an ingredient of personal care products without disclosure of the exact substances contained such as benzene.

For a safer option, look for products that do not include this chemical. Read labels and avoid products that contain these toxic ingredients: *benzene or fragrance*.

Benzene is often found as an unintentional contaminant in consumer products and may not be listed on the label.

## Why is Benzene Concerning?

Benzene is considered **carcinogenic to humans** by the [International Agency For Research on Cancer (IARC)](https://www.iarc.fr) and **known to be a human carcinogen** by the [National Toxicology Program (NTP)](https://ntp.niehs.nih.gov).

## Where can I find more information about Benzene?

To learn more about this hazardous chemical, please visit the following organization's websites:

**Scientific Government Resources:**
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): Facts About Benzene
- Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry: ToxFAQs for Benzene
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): Benzene

**Consumer Support Information:**
- CBS News: Carcinogen found in some popular sunscreens and after-sun products including Neutrogena, tests show
- Environmental Working Group: Benzene
- American Cancer Society: Benzene and Cancer Risk

**NOTE:** All links for additional information are trusted sources. If you would not to know more, or have questions, please contact us at info@CENSWPA.org.