### What is Formaldehyde?

Formaldehyde has been identified as a known human carcinogen, by the scientific community. It is commonly found in a variety of consumer products from building materials to cosmetics. It is also a prominent outdoor air pollutant. Formaldehyde has been linked to nasopharyngeal cancer, sinonasal cancer, and lymphohematopoietic cancer, specifically myeloid leukemias.

### Where is Formaldehyde Found?

Formaldehyde can be found in nail polish, eyelash glue, hair gel, hair-smoothing products, baby shampoo, body soap, color cosmetics, fragrance, food, cigarettes, plywood, particle board, fabrics, laminate flooring, cleaning products, among others. Formaldehyde can be an unintentional contaminate of certain preservatives. Formaldehyde is a common air pollutant that is primarily formed by reactions with other chemical air pollutants.

For a safer option, look for products that do not include this chemical. Read labels to avoid products with these toxic ingredients: formaldehyde, quaternium-15, DMDM hydantoin, imidazolidinyl urea, diazolidinyl urea, polyoxymethylene urea, sodium hydroxymethylglycinate, 2-bromo-2-nitropropane-1,3-diol (bronopol) glyoxal, fragrance.

### Why is Formaldehyde Concerning?

Formaldehyde is considered **carcinogenic to humans** by the International Agency For Research on Cancer (IARC) and **known to be a human carcinogen** by the National Toxicology Program (NTP).

In the United States, formaldehyde is not banned in personal care products or cosmetics.

### Where can I find more information about Formaldehyde?

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

**Scientific Government Resources:**
- The Agency for Toxics Substances Disease Registry (ATSDR): Formaldehyde and Your Health
- National Cancer Institute: Formaldehyde
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): Formaldehyde
- National Toxicology Program (NTP): Formaldehyde

**Consumer Support Information:**
- Campaign for Safe Cosmetics: Formaldehyde and Formaldehyde-releasing preservatives

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.