



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 Toxic 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.