

ETHYLENE GLYCOL FACT SHEET

North Carolina Division of Public Health • Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch

Chemical Information

- 32nd highest volume chemical produced in the U.S.
- Odorless with a sweet taste.
- Clear and colorless liquid.
- Combustible.
- Soluble in water, acetone and alcohol.
- Toxic if inhaled, swallowed or absorbed through skin.
- Used for coolant, antifreeze; de-icing solutions for cars, airplanes, and boats; brake fluids; and inks used in stamp pads, ballpoint pens, and print shops.

Hazards Identification

Acute Exposure:

- Can cause vomiting, drowsiness, respiratory failure, convulsions, metabolic changes, and gastrointestinal upset.
- Can lead to heart and neurological problems.
- Can also lead to kidney failure.

Chronic Exposure:

- Can cause throat irritation, mild headache, low backache, and loss of consciousness.

Stability & Reactivity

- Reacts with strong oxidizers and acids, which can include chromium trioxide, potassium permanganate, sodium peroxide, sulfuric acid, and perchloric acid.

Handling & Storage

- Use with caution and keep out of the reach of children.
- Store in original container with a childproof cap and proper label.
- Store away from food.

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