

ETHYLENE GLYCOL FACT SHEET

What is ethylene glycol?

It is a clear, colorless, slightly syrupy liquid at room temperature. Ethylene glycol is odorless but has a sweet taste. It is used to make antifreeze and de-icing solutions, photographic developing solutions, and hydraulic brake fluids.

How can you be exposed to ethylene glycol?

You can be exposed, if you breathe or touch ethylene glycol and work in the industry that uses it.

What are the immediate symptoms of exposure to ethylene glycol?

If you eat or drink ethylene glycol, the symptoms can result in:

- nausea
- seizures
- slurred speech
- convulsions
- confusion
- heart and kidney problems and even death
- It affects the body's chemistry by increasing the amount of acid, resulting in metabolic problems.

What are the long-term health effects of exposure to ethylene glycol?

Prolonged exposure of high amounts of ethylene glycol may cause damage to a developing fetus. Repeated or high exposures may cause kidney damage and/ or kidney stones. Brain damage may also occur with repeated or high exposure to ethylene glycol.

What should I do if I think I have been exposed to ethylene glycol?

There are tests available to check if you have been exposed to ethylene glycol. These tests are used on people that show symptoms and who have consumed the substance.

Call 911 for medical attention. Do not drive yourself to the hospital as you may become very ill on your way.

Where can I get more information on ethylene glycol?

Regional poison control center (1-800-222-1222)

www.bt.cdc.gov

www.tdh.state.tx.us

www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/rtkweb/rtkhsfs.htm

Source of Information

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

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www.hcphe.org