



## Summary of Health Effects

1,4-Dioxane can irritate the eyes and nose and at higher amounts can cause severe liver and kidney effects. 1,4-Dioxane has been linked to liver and kidney damage in humans. It can cause cancer in animals.

## How is 1,4-Dioxane used?

1,4-Dioxane is used to make adhesives, cosmetics, lacquers, varnishes, waxes and polishing products.<sup>1,2</sup>

## Toxicity: What are its health effects?

The International Agency for Research on Cancer determined that there is *inadequate* evidence in humans, and *sufficient* evidence in experimental animals, for the carcinogenicity of 1,4-Dioxane.<sup>1</sup>

Occupational exposure has resulted in liver and kidney toxicity.<sup>1</sup>

The National Toxicology Program concluded that 1,4-Dioxane is reasonably anticipated to be

a carcinogen.<sup>2</sup> 1,4-Dioxane is listed as a carcinogen on California's Proposition 65 list.<sup>3</sup> The Environmental Protection Agency determined that 1,4-Dioxane is likely to be carcinogenic to humans.<sup>4</sup>

Exposure to small amounts of 1,4-Dioxane causes eye and nose irritation, while exposure to much higher amounts can cause severe liver and kidney effects, and possibly death.<sup>5</sup>

## Exposure: How can a person come in contact with it?

A person can come in contact with 1,4-Dioxane by breathing it in, swallowing contaminated food or water, or from skin contact.<sup>2</sup>

Exposure most often occurs through inhalation. However, skin absorption can occur with the use of cosmetics containing 1,4-Dioxane.<sup>4</sup>

The 2014 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) report did not include data for 1,4-Dioxane.

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## References

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2. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Toxicology Program (2014). *Report on carcinogens, thirteenth edition*. Retrieved from [ntp.niehs.nih.gov/pubhealth/roc/index-1.html](http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/pubhealth/roc/index-1.html)
3. California Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. *List of chemicals known to the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity*. Retrieved November 9, 2018, from [oehha.ca.gov/proposition-65/proposition-65-list](http://oehha.ca.gov/proposition-65/proposition-65-list)
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