

FORMALDEHYDE FACTS

“The National Academy of Sciences estimates that about 20 percent of the U.S. population may be intolerant of the formaldehyde even in extremely low airborne concentrations” (The Human Ecologist, Winter 1989, p. 19)

“It doesn’t take much. Acute symptoms have been observed in response to as little as 0.01 ppm over a five-minute exposure.” (The Human Ecologist, Winter 1989, p. 19).

“Formaldehyde is a potent irritant which affects the eyes, nose, throat, and lungs, and may also cause skin reactions. Exposure has also been shown to cause headaches, depression, dizziness, and loss of sleep in cases of chronic exposure... Formaldehyde has also been shown to aggravate minor illnesses,, such as cough’s, colds, and to trigger a number of other, more serious illnesses such as asthma. A recent study on the toxic effects of formaldehyde concluded that one person in every five is sensitive to exposure.” (Your Home, Your Health, Your Well-Being. David Roussau and W. J. Rea, M.D., p. 44)

“Dr. Philip J. Landrigan, Director of Environmental and Occupational Medicine at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City, in testimony before the (congressional) subcommittee on oversight and investigation (July 28, 1986), called formaldehyde ‘a potent genotoxic agent and a human carcinogen.’” (The Human Ecologist, Winter 1989, p. 19)

“Formaldehyde is known to cause nasal cancer in rats and mice. For this reason it is considered a possible human carcinogen. Some studies of workers exposed to formaldehyde on the job show a significant association with cancer of the respiratory tract.” (Healthy Home, Healthy Kids. Joyce M. Schoemaker, Ph.D. and Chrity Y. Vitale, Ph.D., p. 148)

“Formaldehyde has been demonstrated to be responsible for a wide variety of serious symptoms: headache, watery eyes and nose, asthma, bronchitis, joint pains, atopic dermatitis, chronic fatigue, phlebitis, insomnia, nose bleeds, chest pains, palpitations, miscarriages, tinnitus, chronic ear infections, temperature fluctuations, dizziness, memory loss, and sinusitis.” (The Human Ecologist, Winter 1989, p. 19)

For further information and guidelines on formaldehyde in the work place, see OSHA Standards and Interpretations 1910.1048 Formaldehyde.