

Formaldehyde and Children's Health

Formaldehyde is a chemical that is known to cause cancer in humans.

Common sources of formaldehyde exposure:



Manufactured wood products



Hair straighteners and cosmetics



Paints and adhesives



Smoke and exhaust



Fabric finish

Formaldehyde exposure is bad for your health.

Low exposure

Burning sensation in the eyes, nose, and throat
Coughing, wheezing
Nausea
Skin irritation

Repeated exposure

Bronchitis
Skin allergies, rashes
Asthma-like allergies like coughing, wheezing, chest tightness

Prolonged exposure

Nasal or sinus cancers
Leukemia


Formaldehyde exposure can be prevented.

- Choose low volatile organic compounds (VOC) paints and adhesives.
- Open windows or use a fan to ventilate rooms, especially when painting.
- Ensure fireplaces and wood stoves are not leaking exhaust inside the house.
- Wash new clothing and bedding and avoid wrinkle-free fabrics.
- Purchase solid wood furniture and air out items containing manufactured wood before bringing into your home.
- Do not smoke.




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