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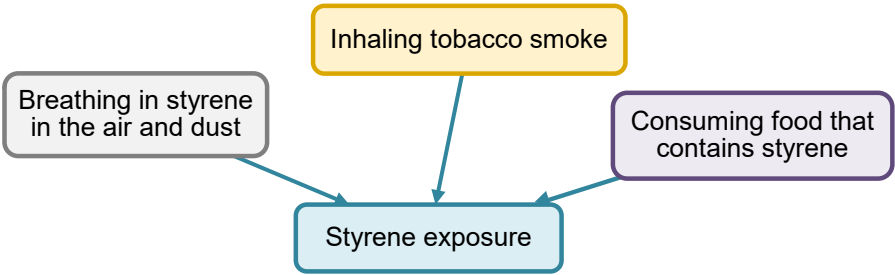
What is styrene?

Styrene is an industrial chemical used to produce a number of different products, including synthetic rubbers, latex paints and coatings, and polystyrene plastics and resins.

How does exposure to styrene occur?

- Styrene is released into indoor air from some paints and building materials, such as certain types of insulation, insulated panels, and rubber flooring.
- Styrene is released into indoor air during the operation of some 3D printers that use filaments containing acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS) or high-impact polystyrene (HIPS). It can also be released by some photocopiers and laser printers that use toners containing styrene copolymers.
- Styrene is released into the air from some industrial facilities, including plastics and fiberglass manufacturers, and waste disposal sites.
- Small amounts of styrene can be transferred to some food from polystyrene-based food-contact items, such as drinking cups, plates, and other containers.
- Styrene is found in [tobacco smoke](#).
- During pregnancy, styrene can pass from mother to baby.

Main ways you can be exposed to styrene:



**How can I reduce my potential exposure to styrene?**

- ⊗ Do not smoke tobacco. Avoid breathing air that contains tobacco smoke.
- ⊗ Do not allow children to smoke tobacco products or spend time in places where tobacco is being smoked, or has been smoked.
- ✓ If possible, limit your consumption of hot foods and beverages from polystyrene-based containers. Do not heat foods or beverages in these containers, which include cups, bowls, and clamshell and other take-out containers. Polystyrene containers may appear as clear or colored plastic or foam, and often carry the recycle code 6.
- ✓ Use a well-ventilated area for printing, especially if you are using:
  - ▶ 3D or laser printers that use filaments containing styrene copolymers.
  - ▶ Photocopiers with toners containing styrene copolymers.

**For more information:****General Fact Sheets and Resources**

- US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)
  - ▶ [Styrene](#)
- Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
  - ▶ [Public Health Statement for Styrene](#)
  - ▶ [Styrene - ToxFAQs™](#)

**Scientific Information on Styrene**

- World Health Organization (WHO)  
International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)
  - ▶ IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans, vol. 82 (2002). “Styrene” in [Some Traditional Herbal Medicines, Some Mycotoxins, Naphthalene and Styrene](#), pages 437-550.
- US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)  
National Toxicology Program (NTP)
  - ▶ [Styrene, Report on Carcinogens, Fourteenth Edition](#)

**Proposition 65**

- California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)  
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)
  - ▶ Proposition 65: [Background](#)
  - ▶ Proposition 65: [The List of Chemicals](#)
  - ▶ Proposition 65: [Fact Sheets](#)

Updated May 2019

[Fact Sheet - Styrene](#)

Related Chemical(s)

► [Styrene](#)

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Cal EPA

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