



## METOLACHLOR

### What is METOLACHLOR?

Metolachlor is an odorless liquid used as a herbicide. Herbicides are chemicals used to control weeds or plants. Trade names for products containing metolachlor include Bicep<sup>®</sup>, CGA-24705, Dual<sup>®</sup>, Pennant<sup>®</sup> and Pimagram<sup>®</sup>. Metolachlor may also be part of other herbicides. These include atrazine, cyanazine and fluometuron.

### Where can metolachlor be found and how is it used?

Metolachlor is used to control weeds in many food and feed crops including corn, soybeans and sorghum. It is also used on lawns and turf, ornamental plants, trees, shrubs and vines, rights of way, fence rows and hedgerows, and in forestry. Metolachlor can be found at low levels in surface and ground water.

### How can people be exposed to metolachlor?

If you work with metolachlor you can be exposed while applying or handling herbicides containing it. For others, exposure may come from drinking water or eating food containing metolachlor residue.

### How does metolachlor work and how can it affect my health?

Metolachlor exposure can cause eye and skin irritation, stomach cramps, shortness of breath, weakness, sweating and diarrhea. You may feel weak, dizzy, or like you may vomit. Exposure can cause anemia, a lack of oxygen in the blood, as well as convulsions. Other possible effects are dark urine and jaundice, a yellowing of the skin and whites of the eyes.

### How is metolachlor poisoning treated?

There is no treatment for metolachlor poisoning. A doctor will treat the symptoms.

### What should I do if exposed to metolachlor?

**If you swallow metolachlor**, drink a large amount of water right away. Try to vomit. If the person has passed out, do not give anything to drink. Get medical help.

**If you get metolachlor in your eyes**, rinse the eyes right away with a large amount of running water for 20 minutes. Hold eye lids apart and rinse the entire surface of the eyes and lids. Get medical help.

**If you get metolachlor on your skin**, wash with plenty of soap and water for 20 minutes. Also wash hair and under fingernails. Take off clothing that contacted the chemical. Remove all metolachlor from the clothing before wearing it again.

**If you breathe metolachlor**, get fresh air.

### What factors limit use or exposure to metolachlor?

If you work with metolachlor, follow all safety directions. If drinking water supplies are contaminated, use bottled water or another source of drinking water.



## Is there a medical test to show whether I've been exposed to metolachlor?

Testing blood or urine can confirm exposure to metolachlor. A doctor will recommend tests based on the symptoms and the circumstances.

## Technical information for metolachlor

CAS Number: 51218-45-2

Chemical Formula:  $C_{15}H_{22}ClNO_2$

Carcinogenicity (EPA): Classification C - a possible human carcinogen.

MCL (Drinking Water): There is no MCL for metolachlor.

OSHA Standards: There is no OSHA standard for metolachlor.

NIOSH Standards: There is no NIOSH standard for metolachlor.

## References and Sources

American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH). 2003. *Guide to Occupational Exposure Values*. Cincinnati, OH.

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