Defining Toxic Chemicals
Non-technical descriptions answer “What is mercury?” “How might I be exposed?” and “How can mercury affect my health?” for mercury and more than 40 other toxic chemicals.

Environmental Health Concerns
Molds, noise, pest control, air quality, drinking water, occupational hazards, and safety issues are just some of the health concerns pictured and explained in Tox Town.

Educating the Public
Tox Town is recommended for middle school and high school students, educators, and the concerned public.

Teacher Page
Activities and resources to stimulate student learning about environmental health issues are ideal for classes in environmental science, earth science, forensics, and health.

A Resource You Can Trust
Tox Town links to reliable science-based information from the National Institutes of Health and other authoritative sources.

Stroll Through the Neighborhoods
Click on locations pictured in the City, Town, Farm, US Border Regions, Port, and US Southwest neighborhoods to learn about chemicals and other hazards.

Picture This
Click on a chemical to see where it might be found in a neighborhood and to learn more about it.

Take a Closer Look
Open a cutaway view of a home, hospital, school, or office for inside information on environmental hazards.

Arsenic
What is arsenic?
Arsenic is a silver-gray or white-metallic element that occurs naturally in the earth's crust. It is odorless and nearly tasteless. The chemical symbol for arsenic is As.

Pure arsenic is a metal and is rare in the environment; arsenic is usually found combined with one or more other elements, such as oxygen or chlorine. Arsenic is also produced as a by-product from the extraction of copper, coal, and lead.

You can be exposed to arsenic by breathing contaminated air at work, by breathing sawdust or smoke from burning wood treated with arsenic, or eating food, drinking water, or breathing air containing arsenic. Exposure can also come from living in areas near copper or lead smelters or from consuming arsenic-treated food or water.
Welcome to Tox Town

People are exposed to environmental hazards every day and are often unaware of the potential risks to their health. Tox Town is the National Library of Medicine® interactive Web site about commonly encountered toxic substances, the environment, and health.

Enhanced with lively graphics, sound effects, and animation, Tox Town brings to life the everyday locations where you might encounter potentially toxic chemicals.

K–12 Resources

Discovering the Connection: Your Environment, Your Health (toxtown.nlm.nih.gov/text_version/teachers6.php) is an environmental health science curriculum based on Tox Town for middle school students (grades 6–8). It can be used in a science classroom or in an interdisciplinary program that connects science and society.

K–12 Listserv: Sign-up for bi-monthly newsletter about K–12 resources – list.nih.gov/cgi-bin/wa.exe?SUBED1=k12nlmresources&A=1

K–12 Resources for Teachers and Students: Links to other K–12 resources – k12.nlm.nih.gov

Also from the National Library of Medicine

Household Products Database: Chemical ingredients in household products and manufacturer-issued safety information – householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov

Haz-Map: Occupational health information on the connection between work exposures and disease – hazmap.nlm.nih.gov

MedlinePlus®: Health and drug information for consumers – medlineplus.gov

TOXNET®: Databases on toxic chemicals and environmental health – toxnet.nlm.nih.gov

MEDLINE®/PubMed®: Index to biomedical journals – pubmed.gov


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Bienvenido a Tox Town

Las personas están expuestas a peligros ambientales todos días y a menudo desconocen los posibles riesgos que acarrean para la salud. Tox Town es el sitio web interactivo de la Biblioteca Nacional de Medicina sobre las sustancias tóxicas comunes, el medio ambiente y la salud.

Tox Town, un sitio realizado con gráficas vívidas, efectos sonoros y animación, da vida a las situaciones diarias en las cuales podría encontrar usted sustancias químicas potencialmente tóxicas.