



FACT SHEET

Xylene, p-

CAS#: 106-42-3

This fact sheet provides a summary of the Development Support Document (DSD) created by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Toxicology Division for the development of [Regulatory Guidelines](#) (ESL and ReVs) for ambient exposure to this chemical. For more detailed information, please see the [DSD](#) or contact the Toxicology Division by phone (1-877-992-8370) or e-mail (tox@tceq.state.tx.us).

What is p-xylene?

The p-xylene isomer is a colorless liquid having a sweet hydrocarbon odor. It is mainly used in the production of polyester fibers. It is also called p-dimethylbenzene, 1,4-dimethylbenzene, and p-xylol.

How is p-xylene released into ambient air?

The p-xylene isomer may be released into the air through emissions from the polyester fiber manufacturing industry.

How can p-xylene affect my health?

Permitted levels of p-xylene should not cause adverse health and welfare effects. Numerous toxicity studies have shown that neurological and respiratory effects are primary targets. Short-term inhalation exposure to p-xylene could result in throat discomfort and breathing difficulty, and in fatigue, headache, and dizziness. Long-term exposure to p-xylene could result in eye and nasal irritation, sore throat, anxiety, forgetfulness, and a floating sensation. The p-xylene isomer is regarded as not classifiable as to its carcinogenicity to humans by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. In addition, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, and the TCEQ have determined that p-xylene is not classifiable as a human carcinogen.

Is p-xylene odorous or harmful to plants?

The p-xylene isomer has a sweet hydrocarbon odor at a relatively low concentration. It has not been shown to be harmful to plants.

Why does the TCEQ set Regulatory Guidelines for p-xylene?

The TCEQ has set various air quality guideline levels (ESLs and ReVs) to protect human health and welfare. Please see the [Regulatory Guideline Fact Sheet](#) for more information on ESLs and ReVs. The ESLs and ReVs for p-xylene have been designed to protect the general public from short-term and long-term adverse health and welfare effects. The general public includes children, the elderly, pregnant women and people with preexisting health conditions. If you would like to know more about the specific ESLs and ReVs developed, what the values are and what they are used for, please see the [DSD](#).