

What is Arsenic?

IT IS A NATURALLY OCCURRING ELEMENT IN THE EARTH'S CRUST.

Characteristics	Uses	Exposure	Health Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- No smell- Natural- No taste- Silver-gray clear solid- Usually dissolves in water	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Wood preservative- Production of glass- Electronics industry- Medicine- Manufacturing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Drinking water- Food with arsenic- Outside air- Cigarette smoke- Air at work sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Stomach pain- Renal failure- Numbness in the hands and feet- Thickening and discoloration of the skin- Cancer- reproductive problems- Internal bleeding- Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea

Association of
Minority Health
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For more information
call the Agency for
Toxic Substances and
Disease Registry at
1-800-232-4636



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ASSOCIATION OF MINORITY
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How can I reduce my exposure to arsenic?

- When using arsenic-treated wood at your home, make sure you wear protective clothing, dust masks, and gloves
- If your community has high levels of arsenic in the soil and water, then you should use cleaner sources of water and limit your contact with soil
- If you work at a arsenic-rich work site, then you should make sure you shower and change clothes before you go home, as arsenic tends to stick to clothing, skin, hair, and tools.



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