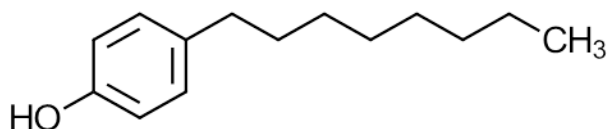


# 4-Octylphenol

 $C_{14}H_{22}O$ 

## Summary of Health Effects

4-octylphenol can irritate the skin and eyes of humans. It can also affect how hormones act in the bodies of animals.

## How is 4-octylphenol used?

4-octylphenol is used in detergents and as an emulsifier in manufacturing. In a screening of plastic toys, 4-octylphenol was found in two out of 28 polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastics.<sup>1</sup>

## Toxicity: What are its health effects?

4-octylphenol is known to cause skin irritation and serious eye irritation.<sup>2</sup>

The European Union classified it as a category 1 endocrine disruptor with estrogenic activity.<sup>3</sup>

## Exposure: How can a person come in contact with it?

A person can come in contact with 4-octylphenol from skin contact or by swallowing it.

4-octylphenol has been detected in the natural environment in surface water and fish.<sup>4,5</sup> It has also been detected in packaged and canned vegetables.<sup>6</sup>

A 2012 study detected 4-octylphenol in the urine of Chinese adults.<sup>7</sup> The 2014 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) report did not include data for 4-octylphenol.

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