



# PUBLIC FACT SHEET

## CHLORINE

### What is chlorine?

Chlorine is an element used in industry and found in some household products. Chlorine is sometimes in the form of a poisonous gas. Chlorine gas can be cooled to change it into a liquid so that it can be shipped and stored.

Chlorine reacts with water to form strong acids.

### What are possible methods of exposure?

- release of chlorine gas into the air
  - skin contact
  - eye contact.
- release of chlorine liquid into water
  - drinking
  - touching

### What are possible symptoms of chlorine exposure?

During or immediately after exposure to dangerous levels of chlorine, the following symptoms may develop:

- coughing
- chest tightness
- burning sensations in the nose, throat, and eyes
- watery eyes
- blurred vision
- nausea and vomiting
- fluid in the lungs within 2 to 4 hours

### How is chlorine detected?

Chlorine gas has a very strong and irritating odor, similar to the odor of bleach. The strong smell may provide a warning to people that they have been exposed.

### What is the treatment for exposure to chlorine?

If you have been exposed to high levels of chlorine, contact the emergency medical authorities immediately.

No antidote exists for chlorine exposure. Treatment consists of removing the chlorine from the body as soon as possible and providing supportive medical care in a hospital setting.

### For more information on chlorine contact:

Ottawa County Health Department  
[www.miOttawa.org](http://www.miOttawa.org)

Center for Disease Control and Prevention  
[www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/chlorine/](http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/chlorine/)  
Phone: (888) 246-2675