

Chlorine Gas



What is chlorine gas?

Chlorine gas comes from chlorine, a common chemical used in factories, labs, and in some household products. When liquid chlorine mixes with air, it turns into chlorine gas.

What does chlorine gas look like?

- It is yellow-green and has a strong smell, like bleach, and
- It stays close to the ground and spreads fast.

How would I come into contact with chlorine gas?

You could have contact with chlorine gas if:

- You mix household bleach with other cleaning products,
- There is an industrial accident, or
- Terrorists release chlorine gas into the air.

Is chlorine gas dangerous?

Yes. Chlorine gas is a poison. If you breathe it, you could die.

What are the symptoms?

Large amounts of chlorine gas can quickly cause:

- Burning in your nose, throat, and eyes
- Pain, redness, and blisters on your skin
- Watery eyes, blurry vision
- Coughing and trouble breathing
- Nausea and vomiting

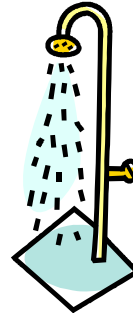
With smaller amounts of chlorine gas, the symptoms may show up later.

Will I die from breathing chlorine gas?

It depends on how much gas you breathe. If you survive, you will have to stay in the hospital for treatment.

What if I think I was exposed to chlorine gas?

- **Move away.**
- **Take off your clothes, shoes and glasses or contacts.** Try not to pull your clothes over your head. There may be chlorine on them. Cut them off instead.



- **Wash or rinse yourself.** Use lots of soap, if available.
- **Rinse your eyes** with water for 10 to 15 minutes, if they are burning. You can wear your glasses again if you wash them. Do not use your contacts again.

- **Call 911 to get medical help right away!**



Then do these things:

- **Put your contaminated clothes and contacts in a plastic bag and seal it.** (Protect your hands with rubber gloves or plastic bags.) Put the bag inside another plastic bag and seal it.
- Tell the emergency team where you left the bag.

For more information...

Call CDC (Centers for Disease Control) for information in English:

800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636)

888-232-6348 (TTY)

Or visit: www.bt.cdc.gov/chemical

www.dhs.ca.gov/epo