

# o-Phenylphenol Fact Sheet

*o*-Phenylphenol is used as a disinfectant by healthcare facilities, schools, and various businesses. It may be added as a preservative to some products, such as paints and leather. *o*-Phenylphenol is also used on some citrus fruit and pears to control fungus, although this use has declined considerably in recent years.

## ***o*-Phenylphenol is found in**

- Commercial disinfectants used in hospitals, nursing homes, schools, veterinary clinics, barber shops, agricultural operations, and other industries.
- Other items, such as:
  - Some paints, adhesives, leather, and textiles, as a preservative.
  - Some beverage cans.
  - The surface of some citrus fruits and pears, in small amounts from agricultural fungicide application.
  - Some freshly cut wood treated for fungus.
  - A few household pest control products with added disinfectant.
  - A few personal care products, such as cleanser for sensitive skin.

## **Possible health concerns**

*o*-Phenylphenol:

- Might have an effect on the body's natural hormones.
- May increase cancer risk.

## **Possible ways to reduce exposure**

The use of *o*-phenylphenol has been declining and exposures for most people are expected to be very low. If you think you might be exposed to *o*-phenylphenol in the ways listed above, here are some actions you can take:

- Wash your hands regularly, especially before eating or preparing food.
- Wash all citrus fruit and pears before eating.
- Clean your floors regularly and use a damp cloth to dust, because *o*-phenylphenol might be found in dust.