

# Product Safety Summary



## PARAXYLENE

This Product Safety Summary document is a high-level summary intended to provide the general public with an overview of product safety information on this chemical substance. It is not intended to provide emergency response, medical or treatment information, or to provide a discussion of all safety and health information. This document is not intended to replace the (Material) Safety Data Sheet. Warnings and handling precautions provided below are not intended to replace or supersede manufacturers' instructions and warning for their consumer products which may contain this chemical substance.

### 1. Chemical Identity

Paraxylene is an aromatic chemical substance, generally obtained as an extract from a mixed Xylene stream manufactured in a refinery or chemical plant.

<b>CAS No.:</b>	<b>EC No:</b>	<b>Chemical Name:</b>	<b>Other Names:</b>
106-42-3	203-396-5	Paraxylene	1,4-Dimethylbenzene; para-Xylene; p-Xylol; p-Xylene

### 2. Product Uses

Paraxylene is primarily used as a feedstock to manufacture other industrial chemicals, including purified terephthalic acid (PTA) and dimethyl terephthalate (DMT). Those chemicals get further converted to polyester textile fibers and to polyethylene terephthalate (PET) for bottling and packaging purposes.

### 3. Physical / Chemical Properties

Paraxylene is flammable. It is handled in industrial facilities where safe conditions regarding ignition sources and ventilation are adequately controlled. At room temperature it is a liquid. The flash point for Paraxylene is 79°F / 26°C.

### 4. Health Information

Paraxylene is generally considered to have low acute toxicity at the levels found in the workplace. Exposure to high levels of vapors can lead to drowsiness and dizziness, and may result in skin and eye irritation in humans.

### 5. Additional Hazard Information

If accidentally swallowed, small amounts of liquid may be aspirated into the lungs during ingestion or from vomiting, this may cause severe lung inflammation and lung edema (an accumulation of fluid in the lungs). This is a medical emergency which must be immediately and properly treated. Do not induce vomiting.

### 6. Food Contact Regulated Uses

This product is not claimed as compliant for food contact uses.

### 7. Environmental Information

If Paraxylene is accidentally released, it evaporates into the air where it is broken down by sunlight into other less harmful chemicals within a couple of days. Paraxylene is a liquid and can leak into soil, surface water (creeks, streams, rivers) or groundwater. Since it evaporates easily, most Paraxylene that gets into soil and

### PARAXYLENE

water is expected to go into the air where it is quickly broken down. Paraxylene below the soil surface may travel down through the soil and enter groundwater, where it remains until it is broken down by small organisms or by site remediation efforts.

#### 8. Exposure Potential

- **Workplace exposure** – This refers to potential exposure in a manufacturing facility or industrial workplace. Generally, exposure of personnel in manufacturing facilities is relatively low because the process, storage and handling operations are closed, with little potential for releases to the air. Many regulatory and advisory agencies have set exposure limits, with most around 50 to 100 parts per million (ppm). For example, the American Conference of Government Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) recommends limiting occupational exposure to no more than 100 ppm per an 8-hour work day or 150 ppm for a 15 minute exposure. Similarly, the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration limits worker exposure to Paraxylene to no more than 100 ppm per an 8-hour work day. The European Union Occupational Exposure Limit is 50 ppm per an 8-hour work day or 100 ppm for a 15 minute exposure. Since Paraxylene is used in a closed process, exposures are unlikely to approach these levels.
- **Consumer use of products containing Paraxylene** – There are no known consumer products which contain the substance Paraxylene, as such. Thus, consumer exposures would be expected to be negligible, far below the recommended occupational exposure levels described above. Mixed Xylenes (which might contain levels of Paraxylene) could be used in some paints and coatings.
- **Environmental releases** – As a chemical manufacturer, we are committed to operating in an environmentally responsible manner everywhere we do business. Our efforts are guided by in-depth scientific understanding of the environmental impact of our operations, as well as by the social and economic needs of the communities in which we operate. Industrial spills or releases are rare; however a spill may pose a flammability issue. Our operational improvement targets and plans are based on driving incidents with real environmental impact to zero and delivering superior environmental performance.

#### 9. Manufacture of Product

- **Process** – Paraxylene is separated out of a mixed Xylenes stream, which may be derived from various other processes in the petrochemical industry.

#### 10. Risk Management

- **Workplace Risk Management** – When using this product, avoid breathing vapors from the material and make sure that there is adequate ventilation. Use non-sparking tools and explosion-proof equipment. Always use chemical resistant gloves to protect your hands and skin and always wear eye protection such as chemical goggles. Do not eat, drink, or smoke where chemicals are handled, processed, or stored. Wash hands and skin following contact. If this product gets into your eyes, flush eyes thoroughly with tap water. If irritation occurs, get medical assistance. Please refer to the (Material) Safety Data Sheet.
- **Consumer Risk Management** - This chemical is not sold directly to the public for general consumer uses. If exposure should occur, it is expected to be infrequent and of short duration. Always follow manufacturers' instructions, warnings and handling precautions when using their products. The best way to minimize exposure to vapors is to work in well-ventilated areas.

## Product Safety Summary



### PARAXYLENE

#### 11. Regulatory Information

Regulations may exist that govern the manufacture, sale, transportation, use and/or disposal of this product and may vary by city, state, country or geographic region. Additional helpful information may be found by consulting the relevant ExxonMobil (Material) Safety Data Sheet at:

- <http://www.msds.exxonmobil.com>

#### 12. Conclusion Statements

Paraxylene ...

- is a widely used industrial chemical feedstock used to make other industrial chemicals.
- is low in acute toxicity at typical exposures, however may cause skin and eye irritation, and lead to drowsiness and dizziness at high level exposures.
- is not expected to cause adverse environmental effects at levels typically found in the workplace or environment.
- is flammable; use only with good ventilation and avoid all ignition sources.

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