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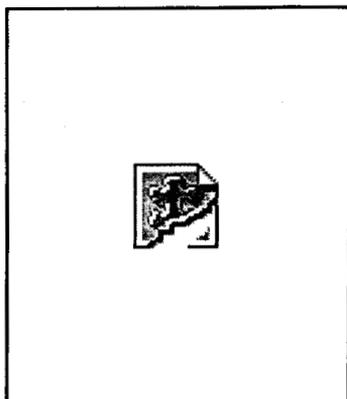


ToxFAQs

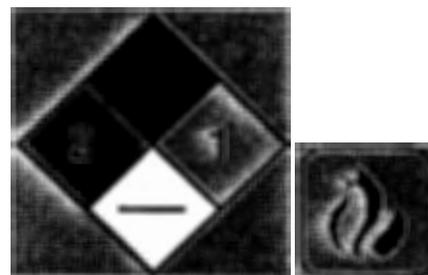
# Antimony

CAS# 7440-36-0

September 1995



Antimony  
Sb  
[GIF Image](#)  
[XYZ File](#)



NFPA Label Key

Material Safety Data Sheet  
(University of Utah)

## Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

*This fact sheet answers the most frequently asked health questions about antimony. For more information, you may call the ATSDR Information Center at 1-800-447-1544. This fact sheet is one in a series of summaries about hazardous substances and their health effects. This information is important because this substance may harm you. The effects of exposure to any hazardous substance depend on the dose, the duration, how you are exposed, personal traits and habits, and whether other chemicals are present.*

**SUMMARY:** Exposure to antimony occurs in the workplace or from skin contact with soil at hazardous waste sites. Breathing high levels of antimony for a long time can irritate the eyes and lungs, and can cause problems with the lungs, heart, and stomach. This chemical has been found in at least 403 of 1,416 National Priorities List sites identified by the Environmental Protection Agency.

**What is antimony?**  
(Pronounced an'ti-mo-nee)



10491

Antimony is a silvery-white metal that is found in the earth's crust. Antimony ores are mined and then mixed with other metals to form antimony alloys or combined with oxygen to form antimony oxide.

Tests are available to measure antimony levels in the body. Antimony can be measured in the urine, feces, and blood for several days after exposure. However, these tests cannot tell you how much antimony you have been exposed to or whether you will experience any health effects. Some tests are not usually performed in most doctors' offices and may require special equipment to conduct them.

### **Has the federal government made recommendations to protect human health?**

The EPA allows 0.006 parts of antimony per million parts of drinking water (0.006 ppm). The EPA requires that discharges or spills into the environment of 5,000 pounds or more of antimony be reported.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has set an occupational exposure limit of 0.5 milligrams of antimony per cubic meter of air (0.5 mg/m<sup>3</sup>) for an 8-hour workday, 40-hour workweek.

The American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) currently recommend the same guidelines for the workplace as OSHA.

### **Glossary**

**Carcinogenicity:**

Ability to cause cancer.

**Ingestion:**

Taking food or drink into your body.

**Long-term:**

Lasting one year or more.

**Milligram (mg):**

One thousandth of a gram.

**Parasite:**

An organism living in or on another organism.

**PPM:**

Parts per million.

**Short-term:**

Lasting 14 days or less.

### **References**

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). 1992. Toxicological profile for antimony. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service.

### **Where can I get more information?**

ATSDR can tell you where to find occupational and environmental health clinics. Their specialists can recognize, evaluate, and treat illnesses resulting from exposure to hazardous substances. You can also contact your community or state health or environmental quality department if you have any more questions or concerns.

### **For more information, contact:**

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