

What is hydrochloric acid?

Hydrochloric acid is a mixture of hydrogen chloride (a chemical compound made up of hydrogen and chlorine) and water. When hydrogen chloride contacts humid air or rain, it forms hydrochloric acid. These materials are used to manufacture silicone products.

Hydrochloric acid has a sharp, disagreeable odor. This odor is an early warning signal, even at very low concentrations.

Hydrochloric acid may form a visible cloud. If you cannot stay indoors (shelter-in-place), move up-wind and avoid any visible cloud.

Effects of exposure

	<i>Possible effects</i>	<i>What to do</i>
Breathing	Severe irritation to the upper airway, chemical burns and choking	Immediately seek fresh air and get medical attention. Monitor for airway irritation.
Eyes	Vapors are severely irritating, causing pain and watering with the potential for chemical burns.	Immediately flush open eyes with cool or lukewarm water for at least 15 minutes . Get medical attention.
Skin	Vapors may irritate. Direct liquid contact may produce a severe chemical burn.	Immediately flush skin with cool or lukewarm water for at least 15 minutes . Get medical attention.
Accidental Ingestion	Slight to severe chemical burns in the mouth, throat and stomach	Get immediate medical attention. Do not induce vomiting.

Stay indoors – “shelter-in-place”

Local officials may advise you to stay indoors, known as “shelter-in-place.” This protects people and pets until the hazard of a chemical release has passed.

- ✓ Take shelter in a building.

Hydrochloric Acid Fact Sheet



- ✓ Close all doors and windows.
- ✓ Turn off fans, air conditioners, furnaces and pilot lights.
- ✓ Put out fires in fireplaces or wood stoves. Close all dampers.
- ✓ Go to an interior room or hallway. Use duct tape, plastic sheeting or towels to seal doors and windows.
- ✓ **If you are in a vehicle**, shut off the engine. If possible, take shelter inside the nearest building. Or turn off the fan, air conditioner and heater. Close all doors, windows and vents.
- ✓ Stay inside and listen to **cable TV, WIKI 95.3 FM or WKID 95.9 FM** for further instructions. **Call 911 for emergencies only.**
- ✓ Stay inside until local officials give the **"All Clear"** and any additional information.

What to do after the "All Clear"

- ✓ **People** who experience symptoms should go to the hospital emergency room for evaluation.
- ✓ **People, including children and pets**, can go outside.
- ✓ **Building and car** windows, dampers and vents can be opened. Heating or air conditioning systems can be used.
- ✓ **Fruits and vegetables** from outside should be washed thoroughly before use.
- ✓ **Trees, shrubs and lawns** may discolor and require additional watering.
- ✓ **Rivers, ponds, streams and swimming pools** should be unaffected.

More information

<i>Dow Corning</i>	<i>Carroll Co. Hospital</i>	<i>Emergency Mgt.</i>
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<i>(502) 732-2000</i>	<i>(502) 732-4321</i>	<i>(502) 732-7019</i>