



Motor Vehicle Parts

Why am I being warned about potential exposure to chemicals in motor vehicle parts?



- Some chemicals in motor vehicle parts are on the [Proposition 65](#) list because they can cause cancer and/or birth defects or other reproductive harm.
- Proposition 65 requires businesses to determine if they must provide a warning about exposures to [listed chemicals](#).

Some **motor vehicle parts** can expose you to chemicals on the Proposition 65 list. These include some parts used in cars, trucks, motorcycles, and boats.

Not all vehicle parts will expose you to chemicals on the Proposition 65 list.

This fact sheet focuses on exposures to listed chemicals that can occur when you install or remove motor vehicle parts. To learn about exposures from motor vehicle use, see our fact sheet on [vehicles](#).

Chemicals associated with common motor vehicle parts include:

- [Lead](#), which is used in lead-acid batteries, and may be present in other motor vehicle parts.
- [Phthalates](#), a group of chemicals that make plastic flexible. Some phthalates may be present in cable and wire coverings, floor mats, seat covers, and other parts.
- [Asbestos](#), which may be present in some motor vehicle parts, including brake pads. As of 2014, asbestos is not permitted at levels above 0.1% in most brake materials sold in California.

How does exposure to chemicals on the Proposition 65 list from motor vehicle parts occur?

Transferring chemicals from the hands to the mouth and swallowing

Breathing in chemicals present in air and dust

Exposure to chemicals in motor vehicle parts

- During pregnancy, some of these chemicals can pass from mother to baby.

How can I reduce my exposure to chemicals on the Proposition 65 list from motor vehicle parts?

- ✓ When purchasing a motor vehicle part, follow the manufacturer's instructions for safe handling and use. Contact the manufacturer if you have questions about a Proposition 65 warning for a specific part.
- ✓ If your brakes need to be serviced, and you suspect that they may contain asbestos, take your vehicle to a professional mechanic.
- ✓ When working on your vehicle and handling motor parts:
 - ▶ Work in a well-ventilated area.
 - ▶ Wear proper protective clothing, including gloves. Wash this clothing and gear separately from other items.
 - ▶ Wash your hands when you finish, especially before preparing food or eating.
 - ▶ Clean up your work area with a wet mop or vacuum cleaner with a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter.
- ✓ Responsibly dispose of used motor vehicles and parts.
 - ▶ Most wholesalers or retailers who sell lead-acid motor vehicle batteries will accept your used battery when you purchase a new one.
 - ▶ Check with your [county waste management agency](#) about the best way to dispose of or recycle any parts that may be hazardous.
 - ▶ Avoid leaving used parts unattended on your property, especially those that may contain [lead](#) or [asbestos](#), and keep them out of the reach of children.

For more information:

General Fact Sheets and Resources

- California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)
 - CalRecycle
 - ▶ Lead-Acid Batteries. Hazards and Responsible Use
<https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/Publications/Details/817>
 - ▶ Local Government Household Hazardous Waste Websites
<https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/HomeHazWaste/Directory/>
- Department of Toxic Substances Control
 - ▶ Brake Pads. Frequently Asked Questions
<https://dtsc.ca.gov/scp/brake-pads-frequently-asked-questions/>
- Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)
 - ▶ Asbestos
<https://oehha.ca.gov/air/asbestos-fact-sheet-information-health-riskexposures-asbestos>
 - ▶ Lead and Lead Compounds
<https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/fact-sheets/lead-and-lead-compounds>
 - ▶ Phthalates
<https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/fact-sheets/phthalates>

- Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
 - ▶ Asbestos Containing Auto Parts
https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/ead/documents/FactSheets/fs_asbestos_autoparts.pdf

Proposition 65

- California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)
 - ▶ Proposition 65: Background
<https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/faq>
 - ▶ Proposition 65: The Chemical List
<https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/chemicals>