

# Benzophenone

## Why am I being warned about potential exposure to benzophenone?



- Benzophenone is on the [Proposition 65](#) list for cancer.
  - ▶ The International Agency for Research on Cancer found benzophenone is “possibly carcinogenic to humans” based on studies that show it causes cancer in animals.
- California’s Proposition 65 requires [businesses](#) to warn people before exposing them to a significant amount of a [chemical](#) listed under Proposition 65 for cancer or [reproductive toxicity](#).

## What is benzophenone?

- Benzophenone is a chemical with a sweet floral smell.
- Benzophenone is a different chemical than [benzophenone-3](#) (also called oxybenzone) and benzophenone-4 (also called sulisobenzone). These chemicals are not listed under Proposition 65.

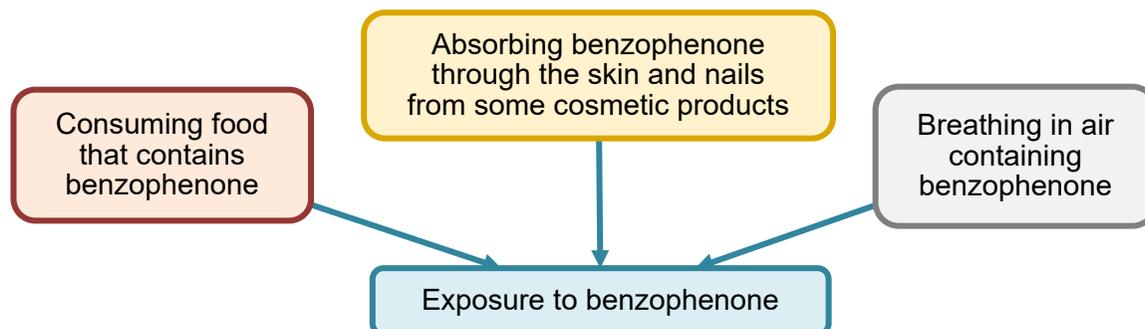
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## How does exposure to benzophenone occur?

Exposure to benzophenone may occur by:

- Using consumer products that contain benzophenone. These include some personal care products such as lotions, soaps, and body washes; some cosmetics such as nail polish; and some scented air fresheners.
- Eating food that contains benzophenone.
  - ▶ Benzophenone is in some inks used on food packaging materials, and can migrate from these materials into food.
  - ▶ As of 2020, the US Food and Drug Administration [no longer allows](#) the use of synthetic benzophenone as a food flavoring.
- Breathing air that contains benzophenone released from some floor finishes or coatings that are ‘cured’ by using ultraviolet light.

During pregnancy, benzophenone can pass from mother to baby.

**Main ways you can be exposed to benzophenone:****How can I reduce my exposure to benzophenone?**

- ✓ Read the labels on personal care products and scented air freshening products. Choose ones that do not contain benzophenone, or are “fragrance-free.”
- ✓ Eat more fresh food, and less processed and packaged food.
- ✓ Where possible, seek alternatives to floor finishes or coatings that are cured using ultraviolet light. Ask a flooring contractor about using floor materials that are not cured with ultraviolet light.

**For more information:****General Fact Sheets and Resources**

- California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
  - ▶ California Safe Cosmetics Program  
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DEODC/OHB/CSCP/Pages/SCP.aspx>
- US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
  - ▶ FDA Removes 7 Synthetic Flavoring Substances from Food Additives List  
<https://www.fda.gov/food/cfsan-constituent-updates/fda-removes-7-synthetic-flavoring-substances-food-additives-list>

**Scientific Information on Benzophenone**

- World Health Organization (WHO)  
International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)
  - ▶ “Benzophenone” section in Some Chemicals Present in Industrial and Consumer Products, Food and Drinking-Water (2013), vol. 101, pages 285-304.  
<https://publications.iarc.fr/125>

- US Department of Health Human Services (HHS)  
National Toxicology Program (NTP)
  - ▶ NTP Technical Report on the Toxicology and Carcinogenesis Studies of Benzophenone  
[https://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/ntp/htdocs/lt\\_rpts/tr533.pdf](https://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/ntp/htdocs/lt_rpts/tr533.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 List of Chemicals  
[https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/chemicals\](https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/chemicals/)
  - ▶ Proposition 65: Fact Sheets  
<https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/fact-sheets>