



# Cadmium and Cadmium Compounds

## Why am I being warned about potential exposure to cadmium and cadmium compounds?



- Cadmium and cadmium compounds are on the [Proposition 65](#) list because they can cause cancer. Exposure to cadmium and cadmium compounds can cause cancer of the lung and may cause cancer of the prostate and kidney.
- Cadmium is also on the Proposition 65 list because it can cause birth defects or other reproductive harm. Exposure to cadmium may harm a man's reproductive system. Exposure during pregnancy may affect a child's development.
- Proposition 65 requires businesses to determine if they must provide a warning about significant exposures to [listed chemicals](#).

## What is cadmium?

Cadmium is a metal that is found in nature and used in many industries and products. For example, rechargeable nickel-cadmium batteries, labeled NiCd or NiCad, contain cadmium, and are used to power many products, such as cameras, cell phones, and electric cars.

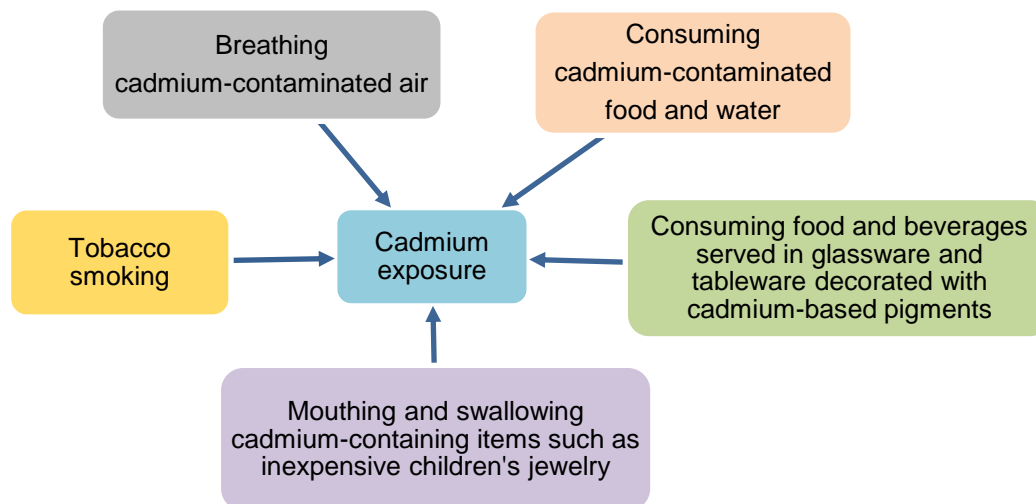
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## How does exposure to cadmium and cadmium compounds occur?

- Cigarette and other tobacco smoke is the most common way people are exposed to cadmium. Tobacco plants easily absorb cadmium from soil.
- Certain industrial processes, such as metal coating and smelting, can release cadmium into the air.
- Some inexpensive metal jewelry, such as charms intended for children, can cause exposure to cadmium by touching and mouthing the jewelry.
- Cadmium can be released into food and beverages from some bright red, yellow and orange pigments used in decorative paints on some glassware, tableware and pottery.
- Small amounts of cadmium are sometimes detected in water and food, which people may consume. California limits the amount of cadmium allowed in publicly supplied drinking water.
  - ▶ Fish and shellfish can take up cadmium from contaminated water.
  - ▶ Plant crops, including potatoes, root crops, leafy vegetables, and fruits grown in soil with elevated cadmium levels can absorb cadmium.

- ▶ Animals that eat cadmium-contaminated crops can accumulate cadmium in their liver and kidneys. Eating large quantities of certain organ meats, such as liver and kidney, may expose people to cadmium.

### Ways you can be exposed to cadmium and cadmium compounds:



- During pregnancy cadmium can pass from the mother to the baby.

### How can I reduce my exposure to cadmium and cadmium compounds?

- ⊗ Do not smoke. Do not allow children to breathe tobacco smoke.
- ✓ Properly handle and recycle nickel-cadmium [batteries](#).
- ⊗ Do not let children wear or play with inexpensive metal jewelry or charms that contain cadmium.
- ✓ If you do any welding, soldering or other metalworking, be sure that your work area is well-ventilated and use proper protective equipment.
- ✓ Keep children away from soldering and welding fumes and other metal vapor and dusts.
- ✓ Limit consumption of shellfish and certain animal organ meats (liver and kidney) to moderate amounts.
- ✓ Eat a well-balanced diet with adequate calcium and iron, which can help reduce the amount of cadmium that your body absorbs.

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

- US Department of Health and Human Services  
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
  - ▶ Toxic Substances Portal-Cadmium:  
<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tf.asp?id=47&tid=15>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
  - ▶ Cadmium:  
[http://www.cdc.gov/biomonitoring/Cadmium\\_FactSheet.html](http://www.cdc.gov/biomonitoring/Cadmium_FactSheet.html)
- California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)  
Biomonitoring California
  - ▶ Cadmium Fact Sheet  
<http://www.biomonitoring.ca.gov/sites/default/files/downloads/CadmiumFactSheet.pdf>

**Cadmium in Products:**

- Consumer Product Safety Commission (US CPSC)
  - ▶ Guide for Parents: The Danger of Heavy Metals in Children's Jewelry:  
<http://onsafety.cpsc.gov/blog/2010/01/13/guide-for-parents-the-dangers-of-heavy-metals-in-childrens-jewelry/>
  - ▶ Cadmium Poisoning:  
<https://www.cpsc.gov/en/Taxonomy/Hazards/Chemical/Cadmium-Poisoning/>

**Battery Recycling:**

- California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)  
California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)
  - ▶ Waste Reduction: Batteries  
<https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/ReduceWaste/Batteries/>

**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>

**Scientific Information on Cadmium:**

- California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)  
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)
  - ▶ Proposition 65: Reproductive Toxicity of Cadmium:  
<http://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/cnr/cd-hid.pdf>
  - ▶ Public Health Goals for Chemicals in Drinking Water, Cadmium  
<http://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/water/chemicals/phg/122206cadmiumphg.pdf>
- US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
  - ▶ Cadmium Compounds:  
<https://www3.epa.gov/airtoxics/hlthef/cadmium.html>