



HSC Safety Tips No. (17)

1. Contact of xylene may irritate eyes, nose and respiratory tract. It can be absorbed through the skin and cause dermatitis. At high concentrations, it is narcotic. In addition, it may cause dizziness, incoherency, nausea, vomiting, and abdominal pain. Eye contact may result in redness, watering and itching. Furthermore, chronic exposure by inhalation or skin contact may result in liver or kidney damage, central nervous system disorders, blood disorders and GI tract disorders.
2. Keep in mind that **ONLY** non-sparking tools may be used to handle xylene. Xylene **SHOULD** be stored in a cool and dry flammable-liquids cabinet away from incompatible substances (e.g. oxidizing agents, strong acids), and away from heat, sparks, flames, and sources of ignition (including empty containers that retains some residue). It is highly recommended that all chemicals be stored below eye level so cracking or leaking containers are immediately visible, and there is less potential for chemicals falling onto lab workers when pulling from shelves.
3. Work with xylene in a properly operating and certified chemical fume hood, at least 6"/15.24cm inside the hood. **NEVER** place your head in the hood, and set the sash at the lowest position possible.
4. When opening the xylene container, slowly relieve any pressure. Ground all equipment when transferring since this chemical can accumulate static charge by flow or agitation.
5. Transport chemicals in closed containers, in the smallest amounts possible, and use aids such as carts, chemical transport carriers, etc.

