

Kerosene



Formula: N/A

CAS: 8008-20-6

Source: Petroleum, Jet fuel & Cleaning agents

Detection Method: Tiger, Tiger^{LT}, Cub, Falco, TVOC 2, GasClam 2 & GasCheck G

Kerosene, also spelt kerosine, and also called paraffin or paraffin oil, is a flammable hydrocarbon liquid commonly used as a fuel. Kerosene is typically pale yellow or colourless and has a not-unpleasant characteristic odour. It is obtained from petroleum and is used for burning in kerosene lamps and domestic heaters or furnaces, as a fuel or fuel component for jet engines, and as a solvent for greases and insecticides.

COMMON HEALTH EFFECT WITH CHRONIC KEROSENE EXPOSURE IS DERMATITIS

What Is Kerosene?

Kerosene (petroleum) is a liquid mixture of hydrocarbons whose lighter fractions are refined, mainly into jet fuel, by adding certain additives. Without these additives, which alter its chemical properties, kerosene was and is still used as fuel for oil lamps. Kerosene had its heyday from 1870 until the early 20th century, when it was also referred to as “illuminating oil.” Following the spread of the electric light bulb, kerosene lamps are no longer commonly used in industrialized countries. However, in rural areas in underdeveloped countries kerosene lamps are still often the only available source of light.

Kerosene in its paraffin form produces fewer fumes than other fuels and is therefore often considered to be less harmful to the environment than burning coal and wood. However, it can emit some poisonous gases. If it isn't handled and used properly, it can cause damage to the body when inhaled.

Exposure To Kerosene

Like most chemicals, the amount of kerosene you are exposed to must be above a certain level to cause adverse health effects. Breathing large quantities of kerosene vapour or drinking kerosene-based liquids may cause non-specific signs such as dizziness, headache and vomiting. Repeated skin exposure may result in dermatitis (eczema). A short, one-off exposure to kerosene is unlikely to result in any long-term effects. However, a severe form of lung injury called pneumonitis (pronounced ‘new-mown-eye-tus’) may occur if liquid kerosene is inhaled directly into the lungs, for example, whilst manually siphoning a tank or from inhaling vomit after swallowing kerosene. This is why it is important not to make someone sick if they have swallowed a kerosene product.

The Main Uses For Kerosene

The main use of kerosene is as a base for aviation fuel but it also has application as a solvent in paints, cleaners, pesticides and some eye medicines. It was previously a common fuel for stoves, heaters and lamps and is still used today as a fuel for home (‘oil’) central heating systems.

Kerosene Detection Instruments



Fixed Instruments



Semi-Portable Instruments



Portable Instruments



Personal Instruments