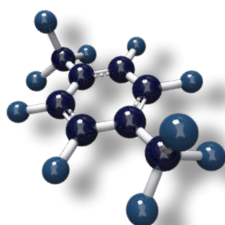


## Xylene

**Formula:** C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>10</sub>  
**CAS:** 1330-20-7

**Source:** Fugitive emissions, Vehicle emissions & Volatilisation of solvents

**Detection Method:** Tiger/Tiger<sup>LT</sup>/TigerSelect, Cub/Cub<sup>TAC</sup>, Falco/Falco<sup>TAC</sup>, TVOC 2, GasClam 2 & GasCheck G



There are three xylenes: m-xylene (CAS: 108-38-3), o-xylene (CAS: 95-47-6), p-xylene (CAS: 106-42-3), since their molecular formula is the same they are called isomers. Their chemical structures are slightly different. Since they are often sold and used as 'mixed isomers', unless a particular isomer is specifically mentioned the information given will be discussing a mixture of the three isomers. Xylenes are flammable liquids and fire hazards. Xylenes are moderately soluble in water.

**C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>10</sub> - IS A COLOURLESS LIQUID, WITH A STRONG, SWEET ODOUR.**

### Environmental Impact

Xylene is a liquid, and it can leak into soil, surface water (creeks, streams, rivers), or groundwater. Xylene can enter the environment when it is made, packaged, shipped, or used. Most xylene that is accidentally released evaporates into the air, although some is released into rivers or lakes. Xylene can also enter soil, water, or air in large amounts after an accidental spill or as a result of an environmental leak during storage or burial at a waste site. Since xylene evaporates easily, most xylene that gets into soil and water (if not trapped underground) is expected to go into the air where it is broken down by sunlight into other less harmful chemicals within a couple of days. For this reason, xylene is rarely found in high concentrations in topsoil or surface water (river, creeks) unless there has been a recent spill or continuing source of contamination.

m-xylene and p-xylene occur naturally in petroleum. o-xylene is found in coal tar, petroleum, forest and bush fires, and plant emissions.

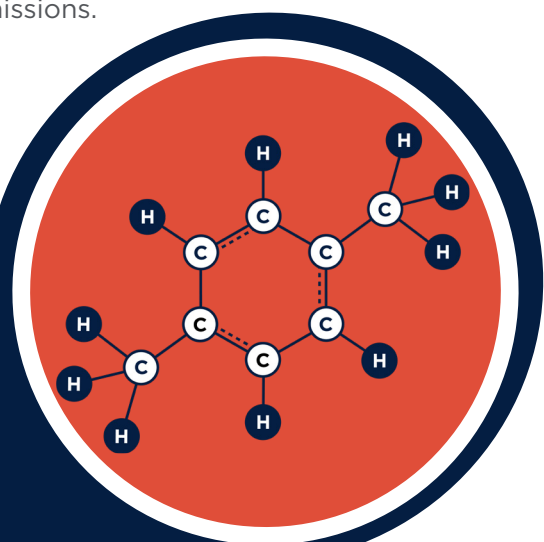
### Hazard Summary

Commercial or mixed xylene usually contains about 40-65% m-xylene and up to 20% each of o-xylene and p-xylene and low levels of ethylbenzene. Xylenes are released into the atmosphere as fugitive emissions from industrial sources, from auto exhaust, and through volatilization from their use as solvents. Acute (short-term) inhalation exposure to mixed xylenes in humans results in irritation of the eyes, nose, and throat, gastrointestinal effects, eye irritation, and neurological effects. Chronic (long-term) inhalation exposure of humans to mixed xylenes results primarily in central nervous system (CNS) effects, such as headache, dizziness, fatigue, tremors, and in-coordination; respiratory, cardiovascular, and kidney effects have also been reported.

### A Common Consumer Ingredient

Xylenes are common in domestic products such as aerosol paints, architectural coatings, automobile and machinery paints and primers, caulks, insecticides and fungicides for yard and garden, hard surface cleaners, lubricating oils, markers, automotive chemicals, paints, varnish and paint and varnish removers and thinners, pet flea and tick products, pesticides, shoe polish, interior clear finishes, undercoats, and primers, sealants, resin and rubber adhesives, water proofing compounds, and wood office furniture.

### Xylene Detection Instruments



Fixed Instruments



Semi-Portable Instruments



Portable Instruments



Personal Instruments