

UNIT 6 • HALOALKANES
AND HALOARENES

Dichloromethane

(Methylene Chloride)



Utility: Industrial & Commercial Applications

Paint Remover

Process Solvent
(Drug Manufacture)

**General
Solvent**

Aerosol
Propellant

Metal Cleaner
(Cleaning & Finishing)

Toxicity: The Exposure Severity Ladder

Tier 1: Mild

Condition: Lower air exposure

Symptoms: Slightly impaired hearing & vision.

Tier 2: Moderate

Condition: Higher levels in air

Symptoms: Central Nervous System (CNS) effects: dizziness, nausea, tingling/numbness in fingers and toes.

Tier 3: Severe

Condition: Direct physical contact

Symptoms: Skin: intense burning, mild redness. Eyes: cornea burns.



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The Clinical Dossier: Dichloromethane

Industrial Uses

- Solvent
- Paint Remover
- Aerosol Propellant
- Drug-Manufacture Solvent
- Metal Cleaner

Physiological Hazards

- Mild Air: Hearing/Vision Impairment
- High Air: CNS (Dizziness/Numbness)
- Direct Contact: Severe Cornea/Skin Burns

Watch for this

Do not conflate industrial uses with physiological hazards. Examiners often construct ‘Identify the incorrect statement’ questions by slipping an application like “aerosol propellant” into a list of toxic effects, or by disguising “mild redness” as a chemical property.

Key Takeaways

- **Industrial Identity:** Dichloromethane (CH_2Cl_2) is a highly versatile commercial solvent and aerosol propellant.
- **Physiological Danger:** Its primary hazards scale with exposure, ranging from CNS depression (dizziness/vision impairment via inhalation) to severe localized damage (cornea/skin burns via direct contact).



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