

- ⊕ Make a list of harmful chemicals (and their source) and other environmental agents that people are commonly exposed to.

People are increasingly exposed to a variety of harmful chemicals, either through their environment or through their products. Some of these chemicals come from industrial sources such as factories and power plants, while others come from everyday items such as pesticides or cleaning products. Other environmental agents that people are exposed to include air pollution, radiation, and heavy metals. Some of these harmful agents are discussed below:

1. Lead: Lead is released in environment from old paint, contaminated soil, dust, plumbing fixtures and lead acid batteries.
2. Arsenic: Released through treated wood, contaminated soil or water.
3. Benzene: Released through gasoline, solvents, tobacco smoke.
4. Formaldehyde: Released from furniture, carpets and paint.
5. Chloroform: Released from chlorinated water and some industrial processes.
6. Asbestos: From insulation and other construction materials.
7. Mercury: Released from dental fillings and contaminated fish.



8. Particulate Matter: From vehicle exhaust and industrial emissions.
9. Chlorinated Solvents: Use Released from usage in a variety of industrial processes and cleaning products these chemicals can be found in air, soil, and water and are associated with a variety of adverse health effects including cancer and reproductive harm.
10. Nitrogen Dioxide: Released from fossil fuel combustion vehicle exhaust, tobacco smoke.
11. Carbon Monoxide: Released from burning of fossil fuels.
12. Pesticides: Released through gardens, agriculture, indoor pest control.

All these environmental agents can all contribute to a variety of health risks, including cancer, respiratory illnesses and birth defects. It is important for people to be aware of these agents and take steps to reduce their exposure.