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# Gasoline

**Article type:**

poison information

**Access:**

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**Gasoline:** Used in fuel combustion engines such as automobiles, lawn mowers, and snowmobiles. Also used as a solvent, for example used to dilute paints.

**What is in it:** Contains refined petroleum.

**Is it toxic?** May cause coughing, difficulty breathing and pneumonia if aspirated (or "goes down the wrong way") into the lungs.

**Health Effects:**

**Eyes:** Possible irritation.

**Skin:** Possible irritation, redness and dryness. Prolonged contact may cause more severe irritation or burns.

**Ingestion:** Irritation to mouth and throat, possible upset stomach and diarrhea. If aspirated (or "goes down the wrong way") into the lungs may cause coughing, choking and difficulty breathing.

### **What to do:**

**Eyes:** Rinse eyes with lukewarm water with one of the following methods:

- Pour a gentle stream of water from a jug or clean teapot over the eye from the inside corner by the nose, across the eye, flowing out towards the ear.
- Submerge eye in a container (bowl, sink) of lukewarm water. Have patient open and close eye.
- Eye may be irrigated in the shower if this can be accomplished without delay.
- Young children may be wrapped like a mummy in a towel with arms at side and held over sink or tub or laid on counter during flushing.

**Skin:** Wash skin with soap and water and rinse thoroughly.

**Ingestion:** Rinse out mouth and drink a few sips of water or milk.

**Do not induce vomiting** as this increases the risk of getting it into the lungs. Rinse out mouth and drink a few sips of water or milk. **Contact the Poison Control Centre.**

**How can I prevent exposure?** Keep out of reach of children. Always store gasoline in its original container. **Do not** put gasoline into beverage containers such as water bottles. **Do not** use mouth to siphon gasoline.

**Clean up instructions:** Wear gloves when cleaning contaminated surfaces. Use mild detergent such as dish soap.

**Need more information:** Call the Poison Control Centre.

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