



Published on *British Columbia Drug and Poison Information Centre (BC DPIC)* (<http://www.dpic.org>)

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Perfume - Cologne - Aftershave

Article type:

poison information

Access:

public



Perfume/Cologne/Aftershave: In addition to essential oils and fragrances, perfumes, colognes and aftershaves contain ethyl alcohol (the same type of alcohol found in beer/wine/spirits). The concentration of alcohol varies depending on the product but can be higher than some alcoholic beverages.

Is it toxic? Toxic effects are due to ethyl alcohol causing a person to become intoxicated. Children are most susceptible.

Health Effects:

Eyes: May cause stinging/irritation but serious damage to the eye is not expected.

Skin: May cause irritation/drying effect.

Ingestion: Small ingestions can cause irritation to the mouth and throat. More than a taste can result in vomiting and low blood sugar especially in children.

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: 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.

Need more information: Call the Poison Control Centre.

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Keywords:

alcohol

We are grateful to all the First Nations who have cared for and nurtured the lands and waters around us for all time, including the xʷmʷkʷyʷm (Musqueam), Skʷwxʷwʷmesh Uʷxwumixw (Squamish Nation), and sʷlʷilwʷtaʷ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation) on whose unceded and ancestral territory our centre is located.

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Source URL (retrieved on 2025-07-12 00:24): <http://www.dpic.org/faq/perfume-cologne-aftershave>