Toluene

About one third of the toluene produced each year is used as a solvent in paints, coatings, sealants, adhesives, inks and cleaning agents.

How can this chemical affect my health?

**Acute (Short Term) Effects**

- **Toxic to Humans & Animals** – Can be fatal on contact, ingestion or inhalation for humans and other mammals.
- **Irritates the Eyes** – Can cause irritation or serious damage to the eye.
- **Irritates the Skin** – Can cause irritation or serious damage to the skin.

**Chronic (Long Term) Effects**

- **Birth Defects** – Can cause harm to the developing child including birth defects, low birth weight and biological or behavioral problems that appear as the child grows.
- **Reproductive Harm** – Can disrupt the male or female reproductive systems, changing sexual development, behavior or functions, decreasing fertility, or resulting in loss of the fetus during pregnancy.
- **Endocrine Disruption** – Can interfere with hormone communication between cells which controls metabolism, development, growth, reproduction and behavior (the endocrine system).
- **Asthma Trigger** – Can result in high sensitivity so that small quantities trigger asthma, nose or sinus inflammation or other allergic reactions in the respiratory system.
- **Brain/Nervous System Harm** – Can cause damage to the nervous system including the brain.
- **Other Health Effects** – Can cause serious damage on contact or ingestion.
- **Cancer** – Can cause or increase the risk of cancer.

http://buildingclean.org/toluene