

Information on Benzene

Physical Description

Benzene is a colourless and highly flammable liquid with a sweet, aromatic, gasoline-like odour. Due to its high volatility, benzene vaporizes readily to produce a highly flammable vapour.

Health Hazard

Benzene is carcinogenic. Acute short term exposure to benzene by inhalation may cause drowsiness, dizziness, headaches and eye, skin and respiratory tract irritation in humans.

Industrial Uses

Benzene is used as a constituent in motor fuels. It is also used to make other chemicals which are in turn used to make plastics, resins and synthetic fibres.