



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

[Home](#) > [FAQs](#) > [Perfume - Cologne - Aftershave](#) > [Printer-friendly PDF](#)

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.

© 2010 BC Drug and Poison Information Centre

Keywords:

alcohol

© 2016 BC Drug and Poison Information Centre

All material found on the BC Drug and Poison Information Centre (DPIC) website is provided for informational purposes only. It is *not* meant to replace the expert advice of a healthcare professional such as a physician, pharmacist, nurse or qualified poison specialist. Use of this site is governed and restricted by specific terms of use. Please review the **full terms and conditions** below prior to using the DPIC website. In the event of a poisoning emergency, call your local poison control centre immediately. Portions of this web site are intended for healthcare professionals. Interpretation and application of information may require more detailed explanation than contained herein, particularly regarding any clinical information that is found in or linked to this site. Patients are advised to consult their health care provider regarding diagnosis and treatment, and for assistance in interpreting these materials and applying them in individual cases.

Terms and Conditions

Source URL (retrieved on 2017-06-27 15:40): <http://www.dpic.org/faq/perfume-cologne-aftershave>