



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

[Home](#) > [FAQs](#) > [Butyric Acid](#) > [Printer-friendly PDF](#)

Butyric Acid

Article type:

poison information

Access:

public

Butyric Acid - Fact Sheet

- Butyric acid, also known as butanoic acid, is found naturally in small amounts in cheeses and butter. It is an oily, colourless liquid with an unpleasant odour like rancid butter.
- The vapour can be irritating to the eyes, nose and throat. If inhaled in high concentrations it can cause coughing and difficulty breathing.
- The liquid can be irritating and cause mild to moderate burning sensation if spilled directly on the skin.
- Butyric acid is not absorbed into the body to cause toxicity. Effects from butyric acid are a result of the irritant effects on skin, lung membranes or eyes.

Treatment for people exposed to butyric acid:

- If inhaled, get out of the area into fresh air.
- If spilled on skin or clothing, remove clothing and wash exposed skin thoroughly with soap and water. If irritation or pain persists, the person should be seen in a healthcare facility.
- Clothing should be laundered before wearing. No special precautions need to be followed for laundry.
- Anyone experiencing coughing or difficulty breathing, should be evaluated in a health care facility.

For information on toxicity or treatment, please contact:

BC Drug and Poison Information Centre
604-682-5050 or 1-800-567-8911

Keywords:

fatty acids

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 x?m??k??y??m (Musqueam), Sk?wx?wu?7mesh U?xwumixw (Squamish Nation), and s?l?ilw?ta? (Tsleil-Waututh Nation) on whose unceded and ancestral territory our centre is located.

© 2024 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 2025-09-24 04:19): <http://www.dpic.org/faq/butyric-acid>