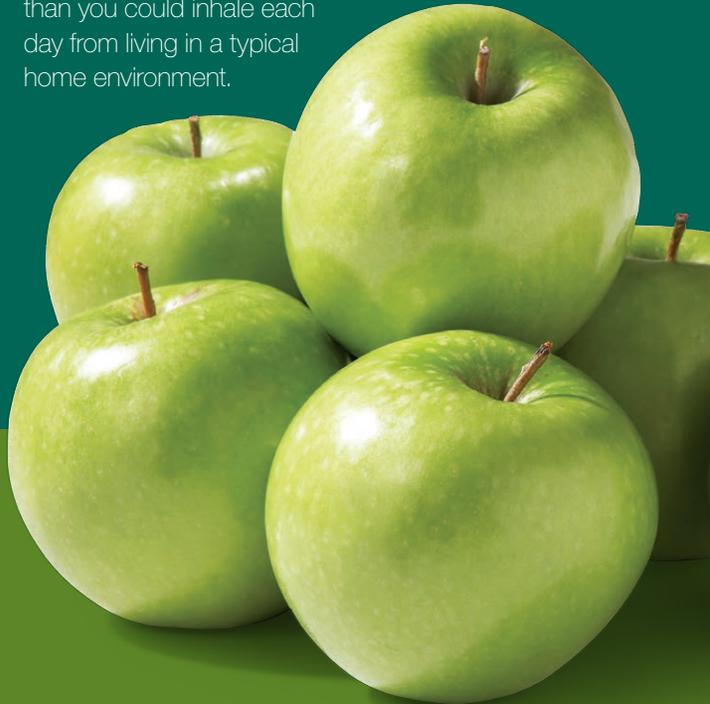


## What is formaldehyde?

**Formaldehyde is a simple chemical compound made of hydrogen, oxygen and carbon, with the formula CH<sub>2</sub>O. All organic life forms—bacteria, plants, fish, animals and humans—make formaldehyde. It is an essential compound and is present at relatively high concentrations in all tissues. Formaldehyde does not accumulate in the environment or within plants, animals or people as it is metabolized quickly and continuously. First used as a biological preservative more than a century ago, man-made formaldehyde has since become an essential component in the production of hundreds of beneficial products that are used every day in homes and factories. Formaldehyde-based technologies are an important part of the global economy, as they are used to produce a wide range of value-added materials.**

Information suggests you could ingest more naturally occurring formaldehyde daily from food than you could inhale each day from living in a typical home environment.



## About Hexion

Hexion is a world leader in specialty chemicals and materials with a long heritage of technology innovation, applications expertise and personalized service. Today, we continue to develop a multitude of high-performance resins and other advanced materials to meet specific end-use and manufacturing requirements of our customers. Hexion's deep understanding of our customers' applications is engineered into every solution we offer.



## About West Fraser

West Fraser was founded in 1955 when three brothers—Sam, Bill and Pete Ketcham—pooled their resources to buy a small planing mill in Quesnel, B.C. From that early entrepreneurial spark, West Fraser has grown to be the largest lumber producer in North America. An integrated North American wood products company, West Fraser operates 40 mills across Western Canada and the southern United States.



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# Formaldehyde: Just the Facts

Whether it's used in plywood for home construction, fuel system components for automobiles, or door and window insulation for modern airliners, formaldehyde-based products provide greater utility for consumers in the form of better value, consistent quality and improved performance and safety.



On an average day, she'll produce much more formaldehyde internally than the amount present in her home from engineered wood products.

### Where is formaldehyde used?

Because of its unique and versatile nature, formaldehyde is an extremely common and beneficial part of modern life. Formaldehyde is a preservative and a disinfectant. It is an ingredient in many consumer products, including cosmetics and pharmaceuticals.

Synthetic resins and adhesives made from formaldehyde are used to make thousands of end products, from plywood and other wood panels to autos, computers, electronic devices and even light bulbs.

While formaldehyde is an essential building block in a diverse range of products, its end use is primarily in a converted form. This means that virtually all the formaldehyde is consumed in making the final product. Advances in product quality and performance have significantly lowered formaldehyde emissions from consumer products.

Many different resins are created from formaldehyde. These resins, in turn, are used to create other compounds having different properties. In many instances, because of formaldehyde's unique physical and chemical properties, no compounds can replace it as a raw material without reducing performance.



Engineered wood products are painted, laminated or coated and emit almost no formaldehyde.

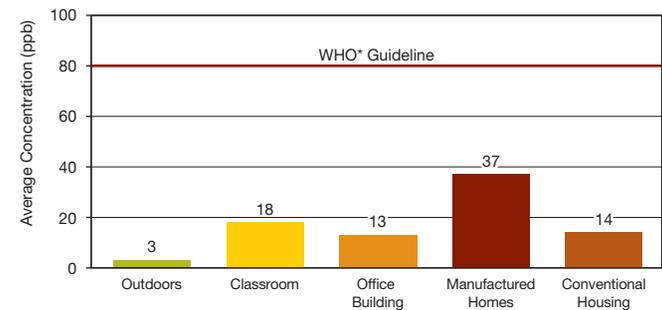
### Should I be concerned about exposure to formaldehyde?

Formaldehyde is one of the most studied chemicals in existence. There is a wealth of information on its safety. Today's strict standards and safeguards protect human health as well as the environment and provide for safe production, storage, handling and use. Industry initiatives—improved resin and processing technologies, tighter controls, and voluntary emission standards—have significantly reduced levels in the workplace and in the home environment. Numerous public health agencies have evaluated formaldehyde and regulate exposure through various protective workplace and product standards.

Good stewardship, better manufacturing technologies and regulatory oversight have resulted in declining formaldehyde emissions in the indoor environment during past decades. Formaldehyde levels in typical indoor environments are well below 100 PPB (see chart below). Formaldehyde resin producers and wood panel manufacturers are making products that emit formaldehyde at, or near naturally occurring background levels from wood itself.

For more information, visit [www.formaldehydefacts.org](http://www.formaldehydefacts.org) or visit [www.chemicalsafetyfacts.org](http://www.chemicalsafetyfacts.org).

### Typical Formaldehyde Indoor Air Levels are Already Very Low (parts per billion levels)



Source: CARB Wood Adhesives 2013-Toronto June 2013

\*WHO - World Health Organization