

Volatile Organic Compounds

Are pollutants found in the air, food, water and soil.

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Are associated with cancer and respiratory effects among others.

Volatile Organic Compounds

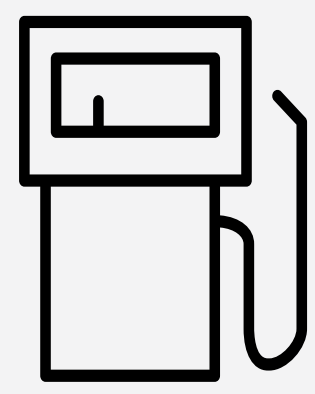


Are made commercially and occur naturally.

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Are found in over 45% of Superfund Sites in the US.

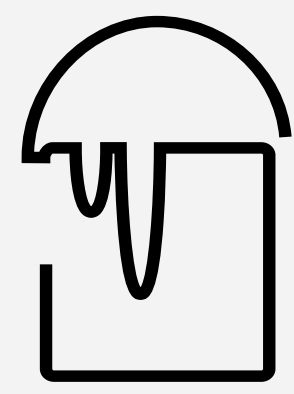
Where are VOCs found?

Volatile Organic Compounds are found in different areas of the environment including, but not limited to:



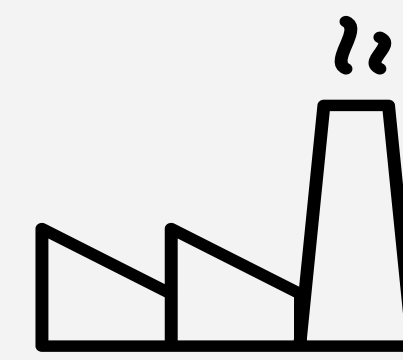
Fuels & Exhaust

Cars expel the waste that comes from burning fuel.



Solvents & Paint Thinners

VOC's are a common ingredient in many painting products.



Industrial Environments

VOCs can be released from many industrial processes.



Insecticides and Repellants

Used to repel pests on food and in natural areas, many contain VOCs.

Do VOCs affect human health?

More research is needed to understand how VOCs impact human health. The following factors are important to consider.



EXPOSURE

VOCs can enter the body through our skin, the foods we eat, and when we breathe.



AMOUNT

How much a person is exposed to matters.



TIME

How long a person is exposed is important.



SUSCEPTIBILITY

Where you work, your age, and medical conditions may make you more susceptible.

REDUCE EXPOSURE TO VOCs



Increase ventilation when using products that emit VOCs



Use household products according to manufacturers directions



Don't store open containers of paint or household chemicals

For more information:

- **US Environmental Protection Agency** | <https://www.epa.gov/indoor-air-quality-iaq/what-are-volatile-organic-compounds-vocs>
- **American Lung Association** | <https://www.lung.org/clean-air/at-home/indoor-air-pollutants/volatile-organic-compounds>
- **LBNL Indoor Environment Group** | <https://iaqscience.lbl.gov/voc-summary>