

National Library of Medicine Databases: *Hazardous Substances Data Bank (HSDB)*

<http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/sis/htmlgen?HSDB>

When you access this website you go to the basic TOXNET homepage with the HSDB option selected. Enter your search term in the “Search HSDB” box. If you know synonyms for the chemical you’re searching, you can also search by them. If you know the CAS number, you can search by it (note: you can easily get a CAS number by using the NLM database *ChemIDplus*, which you’ll see a link for just above the HSDB box on the TOXNET homepage).

The *Help* button can answer every question that you have about how to search HSDB.

You can use the *Limits* button to search just in the fields of the chemical’s record that you specify.

If you click on the button titled *Browse the Index* you will have the option of selecting radial buttons for “All words,” “CAS Registry Number,” or “Chemical Name”. Click on “Return to Basic Search” to return to the basic search tool.

Hints on how to most effectively use this database: After you’ve done a search for a chemical substance you’ll see a “Primary Record” and “other” records returned for your search. Usually you’ll only need the “Primary Record”. Unless you’ve severely restricted the fields you’ve searched in by using the *Limits* button as noted above, you’ll have a very long “Primary Record” to scan through. You can click to see just selected categories of this record. You’ll find in most cases that choosing the “Human Health Effects” category will retrieve the most useful information. To print this information in a printer-friendly format, choose the “Download” button at the top of the screen, choose the categories of the record you want to print, and hit the “Download” command. It will then download in printer-friendly format.

Another useful category that you’ll see is the “Full Record” category. This will be a long download and printout. The other categories are: Emergency Medical Treatment, Animal Toxicity Studies, Metabolism/Pharmacokinetics, Pharmacology, Environmental Fate & Exposure, Chemical/Physical Properties, Chemical Safety and Handling, Occupational Exposure Standards, Manufacturing Use Information, Synonyms and Identifiers, and Administrative Information (data about this record).

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