

APROTIC SOLVENTS | WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

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Possible sources of exposure

Household products (aprotic solvents-containing household cleaning products)

Personal care products

Occupational exposure:

Rubber and plastics

Pharmaceuticals and chemicals

Polishes and waxes

Inks and toners

Textiles

Fragrances and air fresheners

Cleaning products

Occupational exposure (factories, car services, cleaning services, labs)

pH-regulators

Neutralisation agents

Flocculants

2

How can aprotic solvents enter your body?



Via dermal absorption



Via inhalation



Via ingestion

3

How might aprotic solvents affect your health?



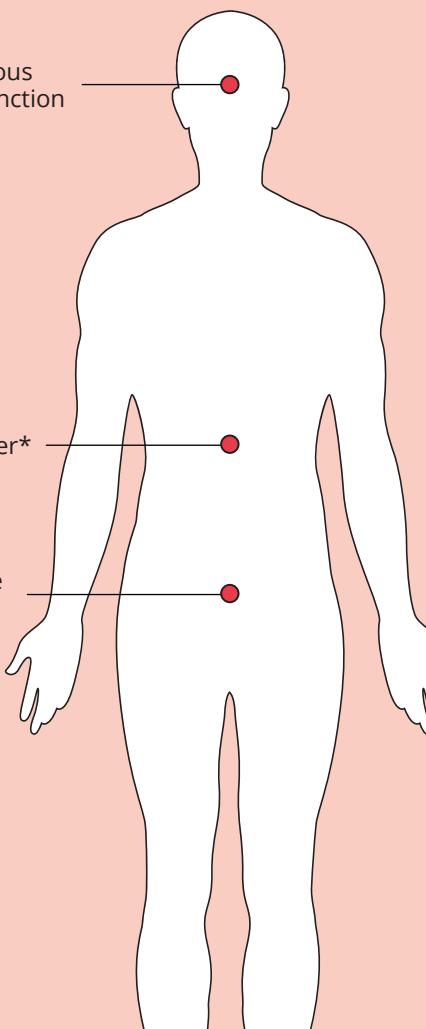
Central nervous system dysfunction



Effects on liver*



Reproductive toxicity



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How can you reduce your exposure to aprotic solvents?



Do not eat or smoke in areas where there are solvents dispersed or being used



Pregnant or breastfeeding women should not work with aprotic solvents



When using personal care products with solvents, read labels and follow the manufacturer's instructions for safe use. Same applies to paints, finishes or glues and cleaning products.



Avoid using products containing aprotic solvents where possible or replace them with a safer option



Avoid inhalation of vapors and skin contact



Use suitable gloves and wash hands thoroughly after using aprotic solvents with soap and water



Ventilate the room where aprotic solvents have been used



Apply safety measures to prevent exposure at the workplace and use appropriate personal protective equipment

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Aprotic solvents are coming under increasing regulatory pressure. The European Union (EU) has taken measures to reduce citizens' exposure to aprotic solvents. Remarkable successes have been achieved in reducing solvent contents in paints and varnishes. **NEP** is restricted under Annex XVII of REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemical Substances) in 2014; **NMP, DMAC and DMF** are restricted since 2018 and «shall not be placed on the market as substances, constituents of other substances or components of a mixture above 0.3 %».

For further information on aprotic solvents, please visit the [HBM4EU Factsheet](#) section.

Where can they possibly be found?

They often can be found in many products consumers use every day, including personal care products and cleaning products. Aprotic solvents are widely used in the chemicals, pharma, textile, industrial cleaner sectors. They are also used in the manufacture of agrochemicals (fertilisers, pesticides etc.) as well as in coatings for industrial use, including the use of the varnishes.