



Gentian Violet (Crystal Violet)

Why am I being warned about potential exposure to gentian violet?



- Gentian violet is on the [Proposition 65](#) list because it can cause cancer. Exposure to gentian violet may increase the risk of cancer.
- Proposition 65 requires businesses to determine if they must provide a warning about significant exposure to [listed chemicals](#).

What is gentian violet?

Gentian violet, also known as crystal violet, is a chemical known for its purple color.

How does exposure to gentian violet occur?

- Gentian violet is often used as an antiseptic, and as a coloring agent. You can be exposed to this chemical by using it:
 - ▶ As an over-the-counter treatment for cuts and bacterial or fungal infections, including thrush, a common yeast infection.
 - ▶ In homemade dye mixtures, such as hair dyes.
 - ▶ In some science kits that contain gentian violet solutions to stain bacteria.
- During pregnancy, gentian violet can pass from mother to baby.

How can I reduce my exposure to gentian violet?

- ✓ Consider alternatives to products that contain gentian violet if you are treating:
 - ▶ A cut or infection.
 - ▶ Thrush, especially in a mother or her breastfeeding baby.
- ⊗ Avoid using gentian violet in homemade hair dye.

For more information:

General Fact Sheets and Resources

- Government of Canada, Health Canada
 - ▶ Health Canada Warns Canadians of Potential Cancer Risk Associated with Gentian Violet
<https://healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/hc-sc/2019/70179a-eng.php>

Scientific Information about Gentian Violet

- California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)
 - ▶ Evidence on the Carcinogenicity of Gentian Violet
<https://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/cnr/gentianviolethid011719.pdf>

Proposition 65

- California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)
 - ▶ Proposition 65: Background
<https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/faq>
 - ▶ Proposition 65: The List of Chemicals
<https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/chemicals>
 - ▶ Proposition 65: Fact Sheets
<https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/fact-sheets>