

Nitrous Oxide Use in Dental Care

Why am I being warned about potential exposure to nitrous oxide?

- Nitrous oxide is on the Proposition 65 list because it can cause birth defects or other reproductive harm.
- Women exposed to nitrous oxide may experience reduced fertility. Exposure during pregnancy may cause loss of pregnancy and birth defects.
- Proposition 65 requires businesses to determine if they must provide a warning about exposures to listed chemicals.

What is nitrous oxide?

Nitrous oxide, commonly known as "laughing gas", is a gas used in combination with other gases to ease pain and anxiety during certain dental procedures.

How does exposure to nitrous oxide occur during dental care?

- Dental patients breathe in nitrous oxide when it is used in a dental procedure.
- Nitrous oxide can pass to the unborn baby when it is given to a pregnant woman during a dental procedure.

How can I reduce my exposure to nitrous oxide during dental care?

- ✓ Talk to your doctor or dentist about anesthetic options other than nitrous oxide in planning for dental work.
- ✓ Maintain good dental health.

For more information:

Nitrous Oxide in Dental Offices Fact Sheets and Resources:

- US Department of Health Human Services (HHS)
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
 - ▶ Controlling Exposures to Nitrous Oxide During Anesthetic Administration
 - ▶ Control of Nitrous Oxide in Dental Operatories

Dental Oral Health:

- California Dental Association (CDA)
 - ▶ Oral Health Fact Sheets (38 fact sheets in six different languages)
 - ▶ Nitrous Oxide

Proposition 65:

- California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)
 - ▶ Proposition 65: Background
 - ▶ Proposition 65: The Chemical List

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 [Fact Sheet - Nitrous Oxide Use in Dental Care](#)

Related Chemical

Nitrous Oxide

Related Product or Place

Dental Offices



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Related Websites

[Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment](#)

[Proposition 65 Technical Pages](#)



Fact Sheets

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[Alcohol and Cancer](#)

[Alcohol and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders \(FASDs\)](#)

[Arsenic \(Inorganic\)](#)

[Benzene](#)

[Bisphenol A \(BPA\) \(Spanish\)](#)

[Bisphenol A \(BPA\) en Alimentos y Bebidas Enlatados y Embotellados \(Spanish\)](#)

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[Di\(2-ethylhexyl\)phthalate \(DEHP\)](#)

[Diesel Engine Exhaust](#)

[Diisononyl phthalate \(DINP\)](#)

[For Businesses: Frequently Asked Questions Proposition 65 and Bisphenol A \(BPA\)](#)

[Formaldehyde](#)

[Formaldehyde in Furniture Products](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions Proposition 65 and Bisphenol A \(BPA\)](#)

[Las Preguntas Más Frecuentes sobre la Propuesta 65 y el Bisfenol A \(BPA\) \(Spanish\)](#)

- Lead and Lead Compounds
- Marijuana Smoke
- Mercury and Mercury Compounds
- Mercury in Dental Amalgam Fillings
- Nitrous Oxide Use in Dental Care
- Tobacco Smoke
- Wood Dust

Most Viewed Chemicals

- Bisphenol A (BPA)
- Aloe Vera, non-decolorized whole leaf extract
- Acrylamide
- Formaldehyde (gas)
- Dinoseb

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