

## **Benzene Sources – Potential Interference/Source Item List**

As part of the Agency's response at Flat Rock, MI, EPA is currently using the Trace Atmosphere Gas Analyzer (TAGA), a self-contained mobile laboratory that takes real-time sampling of indoor and outdoor air or emissions.

Below is a list of commonly used substances that contain benzene and may interfere with TAGA testing.

### **What is Benzene**

Benzene is a colorless liquid with a sweet odor that evaporates into the air very quickly and dissolves slightly in water. Natural sources of benzene include volcanoes and forest fires. Benzene is used to make styrene, rubbers, lubricants, and is also a natural part of crude oil, gasoline, and cigarette smoke.

Acute (short-term) inhalation exposure of humans to benzene may cause drowsiness, dizziness, headaches, as well as eye, skin, and respiratory tract irritation, and, at high levels, unconsciousness.

Benzene is widely used in the United States. It ranks in the top 20 chemicals for production volume.

For more information: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/agent/benzene/basics/facts.asp>

### Products Containing Benzene

- Paint, lacquer, and varnish removers
- Industrial solvents
- Gasoline and other fuels
- Glues
- Paints
- Furniture wax
- Detergents
- Thinners
- Inks
- Adhesives and coatings
- Rubbers
- Industrial cleaning and degreasing formulations

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### Activities/Uses Involving Benzene

- Emissions motor vehicle exhaust
- Burning coal and oil
- Painting and lithography
- Dry cleaning
- Making chemicals used to make:
  - Plastics
  - Resins
  - Nylon and synthetic fibers
- Making some types of:
  - Lubricants
  - Rubbers
  - Dyes
  - Detergents
  - Pharmaceutical drugs
  - Agricultural chemicals (pesticides)

### Industries Using Benzene

- Petrochemical manufacturing
- Petroleum refining
- Coke and coal chemical manufacturing
- Rubber tire manufacturing
- Gasoline storage, shipment, and retail operations
- Plastics and rubber manufacturing
- Shoe manufacturing