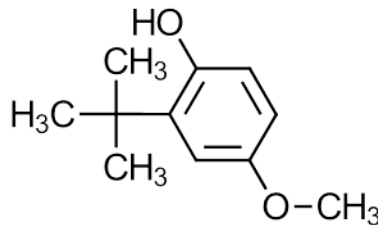


# Butylated Hydroxyanisole (BHA)

 $C_{11}H_{16}O_2$ 

## Summary of Health Effects

Butylated Hydroxyanisole (BHA) can cause cancer in animals. It may also affect the way hormones act in the body.

## How is BHA used?

BHA has been used as a preservative and antioxidant in cosmetics, and as an antioxidant in fat-containing foods.<sup>1</sup>

## Toxicity: What are its health effects?

The National Toxicology Program determined that BHA is reasonably anticipated to be a carcinogen.<sup>2</sup> California listed BHA as a carcinogen on the Proposition 65 list.<sup>3</sup> The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) concluded that there is sufficient evidence for the carcinogenicity of BHA in

animals, but that there are not enough data to classify its carcinogenicity to humans.<sup>1</sup>

BHA is listed as a category 1 endocrine disrupting chemical on the European Union (EU) list of potential endocrine disruptors.<sup>4</sup>

## Exposure: How can a person come in contact with it?

A person can come in contact with BHA by breathing in contaminated air, eating contaminated food, drinking contaminated water, and from skin contact with consumer products.<sup>2</sup> The absorption rate of BHA is increased with a high-fat diet.<sup>1</sup>

The 2014 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) report did not include data for BHA.

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## References

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4. Danish Ministry of the Environment, Danish Environmental Protection Agency. *The EU list of potential endocrine disruptors*. Retrieved from [eng.mst.dk/chemicals/chemicals-in-products/endocrine-disruptors/the-eu-list-of-potential-endocrine-disruptors/](http://eng.mst.dk/chemicals/chemicals-in-products/endocrine-disruptors/the-eu-list-of-potential-endocrine-disruptors/)