

## Propoxur

**Hazard to children:**  
childhood leukaemia;  
developmental  
neurotoxin, endocrine  
disruption, immune  
suppression, acute  
poisoning; later in life risk  
of breast and other  
cancers



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**Uses:** residual  
carbamate insecticide;  
uses include indoor  
residual spraying, bed  
nets for mosquito  
control.

**Bans:** EU

**Residues:** in cord blood,  
newborn's meconium,  
breast milk;<sup>1</sup> children's  
hair;<sup>2</sup> house dust,<sup>3</sup> food.

**Acute toxicity:**  
moderately toxic,  
neurotoxin. Symptoms  
include malaise, muscle  
weakness, dizziness,  
sweating, nausea,  
headaches, abdominal  
pain, diarrhoea, acute  
pancreatitis; seizures,  
coma, cardio-respiratory  
depression, death.  
Children have been  
poisoned in Nicaragua.<sup>1</sup>  
Poisonings from use,  
suicides, contaminated  
food (Thailand);<sup>3</sup> deaths  
from suicides and  
accidental inhalation of  
aerosol.<sup>4</sup>

**Neurological:** prenatal  
exposure associated  
with poorer motor  
development in  
children.<sup>5</sup> In rats,  
behavioural changes,<sup>6</sup>  
impaired cognitive  
function<sup>7</sup> and memory.<sup>8</sup>

**Cancer:** US EPA  
probable human  
carcinogen because of  
rat bladder tumours.<sup>9</sup>

Childhood leukemia;<sup>10 11</sup>  
breast cancer risk.

**Genotoxicity:**  
mutagenic and  
genotoxic,<sup>12</sup> including in  
human cells.<sup>13 14</sup>

**Endocrine disruption:**  
oestrogenic causing  
breast cancer cells to  
grow.<sup>12</sup>

**Reproduction:** ovarian  
haemorrhage (rats  
EPA).<sup>9</sup>

**Immune:** suppresses  
immune system.<sup>15</sup>

**Environmental effects:**  
*Aquatic:* high acute and  
chronic aquatic  
toxicity.<sup>16</sup>

*Terrestrial:* highly toxic  
to birds, moderately  
toxic to bees, beneficial  
insects.<sup>16</sup>

**Environmental fate:**  
Moderately persistent in  
soil and water, and may  
leach to groundwater;<sup>16</sup>  
found in surface  
waters,<sup>9</sup> wellwater.<sup>17</sup>

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