

Not bioavailable Mercury species



cinnabar HgS mercuric sulfide, vermillion

This is the main ore of mercury, and the main form of mercury in soil. Solubility is



of 2×10^{-54}

Used as paint by ancient Chinese, Romans, and native Americans.



Bioavailable Mercury species



methyl mercury HgCH_3^{+2}

This is the most toxic form of mercury. Methylmercury is made by bacteria in anoxic waters and muds. It is the main mercury compound in fish. It is produced by bacteria in stagnant water.



It takes 70 days for half of it to leave your body.

elemental mercury Hg^0

Quicksilver

Used in dental thermometers, gold



amalgams, mining, blood pressure gauges, barometers, and mirrors.

Breathing mercury vapor causes drooling, dullness, diarrhea, kidney and heart problems, and can cause death. It takes 8 days for half of what you breathe in to leave your body.

mercury nitrate



Mad Hatter's poison

Hatters used this to kink the straight hairs of rabbits so they'd stick together in felt. It dries out and cracks your brain.



mercury oxide HgO

Used as red paint on boats to kill barnacles

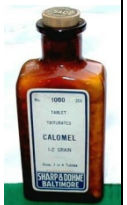


mercurous chloride Hg_2Cl_2 calomel

A medicine for syphilis

mercury chloride HgCl_2

Calomel changes to this more toxic form in stomach acid.



mercury fulminate $\text{Hg}(\text{ONC})_3$

This is explosive, and is used in blasting caps.



Mercury thiocyanate $\text{Hg}_2(\text{SCN})_2$

You can make "Pharoahs Snake" fireworks with this. If you eat the snake, you will die.

Mercury iodide