



Bureau of Environmental Health and Radiation Protection

"Protect and improve the health of all Ohioans by preventing disease, promoting good health and assuring access to quality care."

Escalade²

Answers to Frequently Asked Health Questions

What is Escalade²?

Escalade² is an herbicide (weed killer) that is used to control and kill broadleaf weeds (dandelions, clover, thistle, etc.) and woody plants.

Escalade² is a mixture of three herbicides: 2,4-D (39.5%), Fluroxypyr (5.9%) and Dicamba (4.1%).

Escalade² is widely used on home lawns, farms, golf courses and rights-of-way along utility lines, roadsides and railways.

Note: For the purposes of this fact sheet, we will discuss Escalade² as a mixture of chemicals and answer the questions below to include its three active ingredients (2,4-D, Fluroxypyr and Dicamba).

How can I be exposed to Escalade²?

People who are applying Escalade² may be exposed if they get it on their skin (dermal), by breathing it (inhalation), and/or through eating/drinking (ingestion). You can limit exposure by carefully following the label when applying this product and by washing your hands after using this product.

Both pets and humans can be exposed if they touch plants/grasses that are still wet with the spray. You should avoid grass or plants that have been treated until the leaves are dry (up to two and a half hours). Although less likely, you can also be exposed to Escalade² through your drinking water source if contaminated.

What happens to Escalade² in the environment?

Escalade² doesn't stick to soils and is highly mobile (moves easily through

soils). Exposure to oxygen and microbes (bacteria) are the main breakdown processes, with a typical half-life (the amount of time required to break down half of the product) of two (2) weeks. Breakdown is slower when the soil is moist.

Escalade² is highly soluble (easily mixes) in water. In water, microbes and ultraviolet (UV) light are the main breakdown processes. The typical half-life in water ranged from 4 to 14 days.

Can Escalade² make you sick?

Yes, you can get sick from exposure to Escalade² and its components. Escalade² is relatively low in toxicity. So, getting sick will depend on the contact (exposure) you had with this chemical.

Getting sick from exposure (contact) depends upon the following:

- How much you were exposed to (dose).
- How long you were exposed (duration).
- How often you were exposed (frequency).
- General Health, Age, Lifestyle
Young children, the elderly and people with chronic (on-going) health problems are more at risk to chemical exposures.

What are some symptoms from exposure to Escalade²?

If inhaled (breathed) at high levels: People may experience a burning sensation of the eyes and nose (mucus membranes), coughing and central nervous system (CNS) problems (such as dizziness, confusion and drowsiness). It may also aggravate existing chronic respiratory problems such as asthma, emphysema or bronchitis.

If exposed at high levels through dermal (skin) contact: Irritation or skin rash may develop. Peripheral neuropathy (tingling of the extremities -- hands/feet) has also been reported. People with chronic skin conditions such as eczema or psoriasis may have an increased sensitivity to these chemicals. Severe eye irritation has also been reported after contact with the eyes.

Ingestion (swallowing) at high levels: Headache, dizziness, myotonia (stiff muscles), weakness, nausea (upset stomach), vomiting, abdominal pain and diarrhea.

NOTE: These health problems are ALL associated with acute (short-term), high-dose exposures. As these chemicals DO NOT bioaccumulate (build-up) in the body, the risk of chronic (or long-term) health problems from a one-time exposure is not likely.

Is there a test to show whether you have been exposed to Escalade²?

Yes, there is a medical test to confirm RECENT exposure (within 24-72 hours). As this chemical is rapidly eliminated in the urine, mostly unchanged, testing is not useful if:

- You do not have symptoms and/or
- It has been greater than 72 hours since you were exposed.

Make note the test may confirm recent exposure but will not be able to predict future health impacts.

We encourage you to seek medical advice (your family doctor or Poison Control Center) if you have any symptoms you believe may be caused by exposure to this chemical(s).

References:

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Where Can I Get More Information?

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