

# Methylene dichloride

**Methylene dichloride (MDC, DCM, or methylene chloride, or dichloromethane)** is a clear, colorless, non flammable, volatile liquid chlorinated hydrocarbon with a sweet, pleasant smell and emits highly toxic fumes of phosgene when heated to decomposition. It is predominantly used as a solvent in paint strippers and removers; as a process solvent in the manufacture of drugs, pharmaceuticals, and film coatings; as a metal cleaning and finishing solvent in electronics manufacturing; and as an agent in urethane foam blowing.

Methylene chloride is also used as a propellant in aerosols for products such as paints, automotive products, and insect sprays.

It is used as an extraction solvent for spice oleoresins, hops, and for the removal of caffeine from coffee. However, due to concern over residual solvent, most decaffeinator no longer use methylene chloride.

Methylene chloride is also approved for use as a postharvest fumigant for grains and strawberries and as a degreasing agent for citrus fruit.

## *Industry Uses*

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1. Adhesives and sealant chemicals
2. CBI
3. Functional fluids (closed systems)
4. Intermediates
5. Laboratory chemicals
6. Not known or reasonably ascertainable
7. Paint additives and coating additives not described by other categories
8. Processing aids, not otherwise listed
9. Processing aids, specific to petroleum production
10. Solvents (for cleaning and degreasing)
11. Solvents (which become part of product formulation or mixture)

## *Consumer Uses*

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1. Adhesives and sealants
2. Automotive care products
3. CBI
4. Cleaning and furnishing care products
5. Metal products not covered elsewhere
6. Not known or reasonably ascertainable
7. Paints and coatings
8. Pharmaceutical
9. Plastic and rubber products not covered elsewhere
10. Toys, playground, and sporting equipment