

## 10 IMPORTANT CHEMICAL TERMS YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THE AP EXAM

1. **DDT** (dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane): Developed back in the 1940's, DDT is probably the most widely known of all pesticides. It is a very stable chlorinated hydrocarbon that is fat soluble. Animals at the top of food chains can accumulate high doses that can have deleterious effect on their ability to breed successfully.
2. **CFC'S** ( chlorofluorocarbons) Very stable, human designed compounds that are used in machines such as refrigerators. Unfortunately they act to both destroy the ozone layer and exacerbate global warming.
3. **Dioxins** Produced by the incineration of chlorinated organic compounds. Causes a severe skin rash called chloracne and is suspected of causing chromosome damage.
4. **PCB's** Polychlorinated biphenals Chlorinated hydrocarbons designed as liquid insulators in high-voltage transformers. This chemical biologically magnifies and acts as an endocrine disrupter with negative health effects such as growth retardation and endometriosis.
5. **TCE** (trichloroethylene) A solvent that is used in the electronics industry and as a dry-cleaning fluid. It is suspected of causing cancer in humans.
6. **Methyl mercury** An organic molecule derived from inorganic mercury. It is easily absorbed by living organisms and can cause severe birth defects and nervous system damage.
7. **Asbestos** Naturally occurring mineral fibers primarily used as fireproof insulation material. Embedded in lung tissue, asbestos may cause tumors and cancer.
8. **Arsenic** It is a poisonous element formally used as an insecticide. There is strong evidence that arsenic causes skin cancer in humans.
9. **Benzene** It is an aromatic hydrocarbon which is used as an industrial solvent. It is both flammable and carcinogenic.
10. **MTBE** (methyl tertiary-butyl ether) This chemical was put into gasoline to help the jkkgas burn cleaner. Unfortunately we now know that MTBE is a serious water pollutant. It is presently being taken out of gasoline formulation.