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# What Are the Most Deadly Poisons and Chemicals?

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Some chemicals like water and salt are essential for life, while others like lead and mercury are toxic.

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certain doses and situations.

This is a list or table of [chemicals](#) that can kill you. Some of these poison names are common and some are rare. Some you need in order to live, while others you should avoid at all costs. Note that the values are median lethal values for an average human. Real-life toxicity depends on your size, age, gender, weight, route of exposure and many other factors. This list just offers a glimpse at a range of chemicals and their [relative toxicity](#). Basically, all chemicals are poisonous. It just depends on the amount!

## List of Poison Names

This table is organized from least deadly to most deadly:

Chemical	Dose	Type	Target
<a href="#">water</a>	8 kg	inorganic	nervous system
<a href="#">lead</a>	500 g	inorganic	nervous system
<a href="#">alcohol</a>	500 g	organic	kidney/liver
ketamine	226 g	drug	cardiovascular
<a href="#">table salt</a>	225 g	inorganic	nervous system
ibuprofen (e.g., Advil)	30 g	drug	kidney/liver
<a href="#">caffeine</a>	15 g	biological	nervous system
paracetamol (e.g., Tylenol)	12 g	drug	kidney/liver
aspirin	11 g	drug	kidney/liver
amphetamine	9 g	drug	nervous system
nicotine	3.7 g	biological	nervous system
cocaine	3 g	biological	cardiovascular
methamphetamine	1 g	drug	nervous system
<a href="#">chlorine</a>	1 g	element	cardiovascular

<a href="#">cyanide</a>	250 mg	organic	causes cell death
aflatoxin	180 mg	biological	kidney/liver
<a href="#">mamba venom</a>	120 mg	biological	nervous system
black widow venom	70 mg	biological	nervous system
<a href="#">formaldehyde</a>	11 mg	organic	causes cell death
<a href="#">ricin</a> (castor bean)	1.76 mg	biological	kills cells
VX (nerve gas)	189 mcg	organophosphate	nervous
tetrodotoxin	25 mcg	biological	nervous system
<a href="#">mercury</a>	18 mcg	element	nervous system
botulinum (botulism)	270 ng	biological	nervous
tetanospasmin (tetanus)	75 ng	biological	nervous system

## Poisons: Lethal vs Toxic

Looking at the list of poisons, you might be tempted to think [lead](#) is safer than salt or bee sting venom is safer than cyanide. Looking at the lethal dose can be misleading because some of these chemicals are cumulative poisons (e.g., lead) and others are [chemicals your body naturally detoxifies](#) in small amounts (e.g., cyanide). Individual biochemistry is also important. While it might take half a gram of bee venom to kill the average person, a much lower dose would cause anaphylactic shock and death if you're allergic to it.

Some "poisons" are actually necessary for life, such as water and salt. Other chemicals serve no known biological function and are purely toxic, such as lead and mercury.

## Most Common Poisons in Real Life

While it's unlikely you'll be exposed to [tetrodotoxin](#) unless you eat improperly prepared fugu (a dish prepared from pufferfish), some poisons routinely cause problems. These include:

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## Antidepressants

Cardiovascular drugs

Household cleaners (particularly [when they are mixed](#))

Alcohol (both grain alcohol and types not intended for human consumption)

Pesticides

Insect, arachnid, and reptile venom

Anticonvulsants

Personal care products

Wild mushrooms

[Food poisoning](#)

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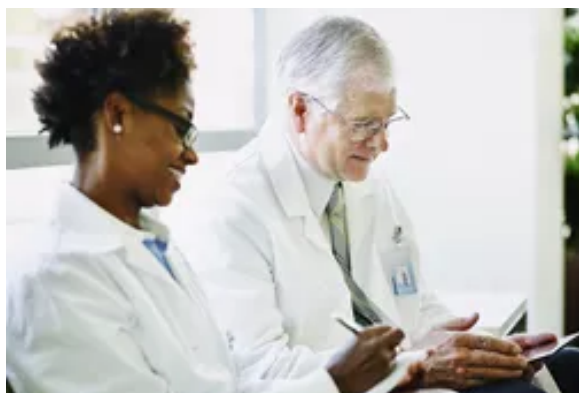
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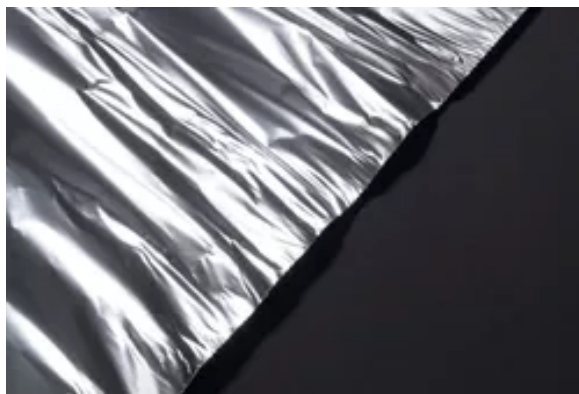
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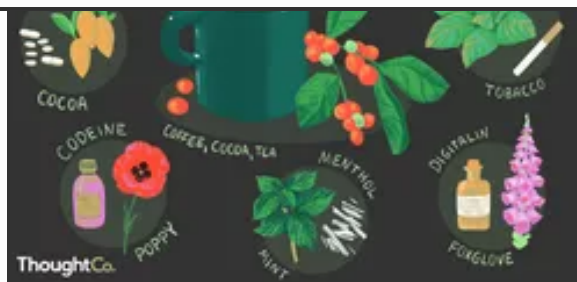
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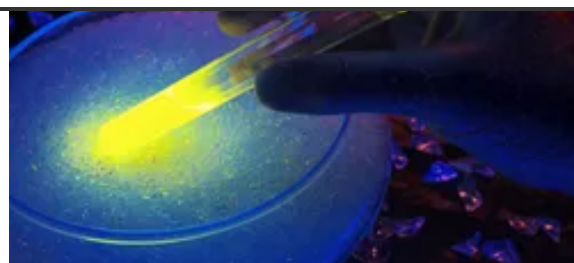
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## List of Medicines Made From Plants



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