

After an Evacuation: Safely Returning Home or to Work

Glycidyl Methacrylate (GMA) Chemical Leak

Your Safety Comes First

If you were evacuated because of a chemical incident involving **glycidyl methacrylate (GMA)**, take precautions when returning home to help protect yourself, your family, and your pets.

IMPORTANT: Do not return to your home until emergency officials have announced that it is safe to do so. Follow all instructions issued by local emergency management and public health officials.

1. Ventilate Your Home

Once officials confirm it is safe to return and ventilate:

- Open windows and doors to allow fresh air into your home.
- When possible, open windows on opposite sides of your home to create a cross-breeze.
- Follow official guidance before operating heating, ventilation, or air conditioning (HVAC) systems.
- If advised to ventilate using your HVAC system, use appropriate fan and outdoor-air intake settings. A fan set to "ON" circulates air but does not necessarily bring in fresh outdoor air.

2. Clean Household Surfaces/Vehicle Door Handle

Clean areas where chemical vapors or airborne particles may have settled.

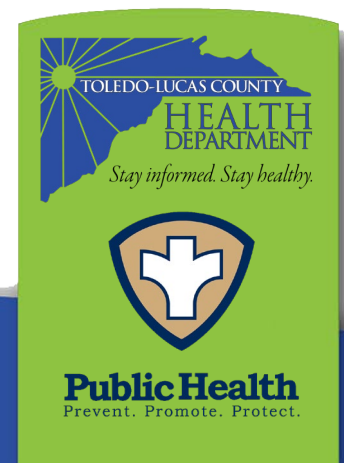
- Wipe down countertops, tables, floors, and other hard, nonporous surfaces.
- Use warm water and dish soap or a mild household detergent.
- Wash your hands thoroughly after cleaning.
- Avoid using harsh chemicals or mixing cleaning products.
- Use a wet paper towel to wipe down door handle before use.

Remember: Routine cleaning may help remove settled material, but it does not confirm that a home is free of chemical contamination. Follow any additional cleanup instructions from public health officials.

3. Check Food and Drinking Containers

Discard exposed food:

- Throw away uncovered fresh fruits and vegetables left outside or on countertops.
- Discard open or uncovered food that may have been exposed during the incident.
- Discard pet food left out during the evacuation.



Glycidyl Methacrylate

Guidance for Residents and Businesses

Check sealed food:

- Commercially sealed cans and glass jars may be retained if they are intact and officials have not advised otherwise.
- Wash or wipe the outside of containers before opening.
- Food inside a refrigerator or freezer that remained fully closed may be protected from airborne exposure. Check for power outages and food temperature safety before consuming.
- When in doubt about possible chemical exposure, throw away the food.

4. Wash Clothing

Clothing items that have become contaminated should be washed before wearing.

5. Protect Your Pets

Pets may also experience irritation from chemical exposure.

- Discard any pet food left out.
- Empty and thoroughly wash food and water bowls using dish soap and warm water.
- Replace outdoor drinking water with fresh, clean water.
- Watch pets for coughing, unusual behavior, eye irritation, skin redness, or difficulty breathing.
- Contact a veterinarian if your pet develops symptoms.

6. Monitor Your Health

Glycidyl methacrylate (GMA) can irritate the eyes, skin, and respiratory system and may cause skin sensitization.

Watch for these possible symptoms:

- **Eyes:** Watering, burning, redness, or irritation.
- **Breathing:** Sore throat, coughing, chest discomfort, or shortness of breath.
- **Skin:** Unexplained rashes, itching, or redness.
- **Other:** Headaches, dizziness, or nausea.

If symptoms develop while inside your home:

1. Leave the building and move to fresh air immediately.
2. Avoid returning until the potential exposure has been evaluated.
3. Seek medical advice or evaluation and explain that you may have been exposed to GMA.
4. Call **9-1-1** for severe breathing difficulty, collapse, or other life-threatening symptoms.

For exposure-related guidance, contact **Poison Control at 1-800-222-1222**.

7. Stay Informed

Continue monitoring official communications from local emergency management officials for updates, additional cleaning recommendations, and health information. **REMEMBER: Only return when officials say it is safe. Clean exposed surfaces, discard potentially contaminated food, monitor your health, and seek help if symptoms occur.**