

Benzaldehyde

Benzaldehyde is a chemical that is naturally found in plants. It is in almonds, cherries, peaches, and other fruits. It has a sweet, almond-like odor. Benzaldehyde has a long history as a food additive and is on the list of chemicals the Food and Drug Administration considers Generally Regarded As Safe (GRAS). Benzaldehyde is used in foods as a flavoring agent and is a component of cherry and almond flavoring. It is also added to some cosmetic products as a fragrance.

Concentrated benzaldehyde is a white, powdery solid. It can cause eye irritation, skin irritation, and dermatitis. In studies on pregnant animals, benzaldehyde did not cause birth defects. In the body, benzaldehyde is converted to benzoic acid (which is also a food additive GRAS), and then broken down into smaller molecules.