

Dimethylmercury

General properties

- Highly flammable
- Highly reactive
- Very strong neurotoxin
- Resistant to hydrolysis

Uses

- Reference for ^{199}Hg NMR
- Methylating reagent
- Toxicology as reference

Caused the death of Professor Karen Wetterhahn (Dartmouth College) by exposure of a drop from pipette tip through nitrile gloves. Died 3 months later.

Originally prepared in 1865, however caused death of 2 Lab technicians weeks later.

Caused death of Czech graduate student in 1972 during 6 kg scale up synthesis.

****Avoid use completely**

Properties	
Chemical formula	HgC_2H_6
Molar mass	$230.66 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$
Appearance	Colorless liquid
Odor	Sweet
Density	2.961 g mL^{-1}
Melting point	$-43 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ($-45 \text{ }^\circ\text{F}$; 230 K)
Boiling point	$93 \text{ to } 94 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ($199 \text{ to } 201 \text{ }^\circ\text{F}$; $366 \text{ to } 367 \text{ K}$)
Refractive index (n_D)	1.543

