

# Chemical Factsheet

## Metam sodium

### General Information

- Fact Sheet: [metam sodium.pdf](#)
- Product Names:
  - Fume V Soil Fumigant** (BASF Sparks)
  - Chap-Fume** (IBC Manufacturing)
  - Busan** (Buckman Laboratories), formulated with Disodium cyanodithioimidocarbonate (one formulation)
  - Vapam Soil Fumigant** (Amvac Chemical)
  - Pole-Fume** (Amvac Chemical)
  - Woodfume** (Osmose Utilities Services)
  - Rout** (Sewer Sciences), formulated with [Dichlobenil](#)
- Chemical Class: Methylthio-carbamate soil fumigant
- Uses: Agricultural soil fumigant, currently labeled for use on all food, feed, and fiber crops; pre-plant on turf grass, to control invading plant roots in drains and sewers, and for vegetation control along drained ponds and lakes (in [California](#) only) used for wood pole processing, in leather processing and in raw cane and sugar processing, as well as in industrial water purification systems
- Alternatives: [Organic agriculture](#)
- Beyond Pesticides rating: [Toxic](#)

### Health and Environmental Effects

*See citations at end of document.*

- Cancer: Probable (1)
- Endocrine Disruption: Not documented
- Reproductive Effects: Yes (2)
- Neurotoxicity: Yes (2)
- Kidney/Liver Damage: Not documented
- Sensitizer/ Irritant: Not documented
- Birth/Developmental: Yes (3)
- Detected in Groundwater: Not documented
- Potential Leacher: Yes (2)
- Toxic to Birds: Yes (4)
- Toxic to Fish/Aquatic Organisms: Yes (2)
- Toxic to Bees: Not documented

### Additional Information

- Regulatory Status:
  - [EPA Reregistration Eligibility Decision \(RED\) signed](#) (7/2008)
- Supporting information:
  - [NCAP Metam Sodium Factsheet](#) (Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides)
  - [PAN Pesticides Database:Metam Sodium](#) (Pesticide Action Network)

- Studies:
  - [Top 15 Farmworker Poison](#)

## Gateway Health and Environmental Effects Citations

1. EPA weight-of-evidence category, "Group B2 - Probable Human Carcinogen." US EPA, 2005. Office of Pesticide Programs. List of Chemicals Evaluated for Carcinogenic Potential. May 10, 2005.  
<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/carlist/>
2. Beyond Pesticides ChemWatch Factsheets. (Cited under factsheets on [Beyond Pesticides Gateway](#); see top of individual chemical page)
3. California Environmental Protection Agency. Proposition 65: Chemicals Known to the State to Cause Cancer or Reproductive Toxicity. Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. February 25, 2022. <https://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/proposition-65//p65chemicalslistsinglelisttable2021p.pdf>
4. Mineau, P., A. Baril, B.T. Collins , J. Duffe, G. Joerman, R. Luttik. 2001. Reference values for comparing the acute toxicity of pesticides to birds. Reviews of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology 170:13-74.  
<http://web.archive.org/web/20081006213641/http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/pesticides/aims/aims/toxicitytable.cfm>

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