

# Methanol Encyclopedia Article

## Methanol

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# Methanol

Methanol is an organic compound with the chemical form  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ . It is also known as methyl alcohol or wood alcohol. Like most alcohols, methanol is very toxic. Its ingestion can cause severe nerve damage leading to blindness, insanity, and death. Methanol can be prepared through destructive distillation of **coal**, wood and wood products, **garbage**, sewage **sludge**, and other forms of **biomass**. It is an excellent automotive fuel and has long been used to power racing cars. Existing methods of production are still too expensive, however, to make it an economically viable alternative to **gasoline** in the general market.

## See Also

Alternative Fuels; Fuel-Switching