

Chemical Agents

In the effort to locate and recover these weapons, research indicates that Army officials could encounter chemical agents in a variety of forms with very distinct characteristics. This chart summarizes agent characteristics.

AGENT	COLOR	ODOR	RATE OF ACTION	EFFECT ON BODY
Sarin (GB)	Colorless liquid	None in pure form	Very rapid - seconds to minutes	Inhibits nerve conduction
VX	Colorless to amber liquid	None	Very rapid - seconds to minutes	Inhibits nerve conduction
Mustard	Colorless to Pale yellow liquid	Garlic or horseradish	Delayed - hours	Irritates skin, eyes, and respiratory tract
Lewisite (L or M-1)	Colorless to amber liquid	Geraniums	Rapid - minutes	Irritates eyes and skin
Chloroacetophenone	Colorless to gray solid	Apple blossoms	Very rapid - practically instantaneous	Irritates eyes and upper respiratory tract, causing tearing
Chlorine	Yellow-green gas	Bleach	Delayed - hours	Nausea; vomiting; irritates eyes, nose, and respiratory tract
Phosgene (CG)	Colorless gas	New-mown hay	Immediate to delayed - depending on concentration	Impairs breathing; fluid buildup in lungs
Adamsite (DM)	Yellow to green solid	None in pure form	Very rapid - seconds to minutes	Eye irritation; nausea; vomiting
Distilled sulfur mustard (HD)	Colorless to pale yellow liquid	Garlic	Delayed - hours	Irritates skin, eyes, and respiratory tract