



# Separate and ventilate

## Fumigating a silo? Do you know how to transport aluminium phosphide safely?

Aluminium phosphide is a fumigant used to destroy pests in food storage areas. It is typically available as tablets, granules, dust or powder.

### Dangers of aluminium phosphide

Aluminium phosphide has the potential to cause harm, even at low concentrations. Exposure to air or moisture generates phosphine gas, which acts as a fumigant or pesticide when used in grain silos and other foodstores.

Phosphine gas is very toxic. Extreme care must be taken when handling and storing aluminium phosphide since even low exposure to this gas can adversely affect people's health and wellbeing. You can be severely poisoned or die from exposure to phosphine gas in enclosed spaces such as vehicle cabins.

Phosphine gas has a very pungent smell and its odour has been described as similar to garlic, carbide or decaying fish. By the time the odour is detected, however, the gas has already been present for some time, and anyone who has been exposed is already poisoned.

### Safety tips for transporting aluminium phosphide

- Never transport aluminium phosphide in the same cabin space as people, animals or foodstuffs.
- This fumigant should be transported on the back of a ute or truck or in a trailer, with the items well secured, and in an adequately ventilated container that is protected from the rain.

For further information, visit  
[www.dmp.wa.gov.au/DangerousGoods](http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/DangerousGoods)



**NEVER MIX DANGEROUS GOODS  
ALWAYS KEEP THEM VENTILATED**