

1,2-Dichloroethane(C₂H₄Cl₂)

What is 1,2-Dichloroethane?

1,2-Dichloroethane is a manufactured chemical that is not found naturally in the environment. It is a clear liquid and has a pleasant smell and sweet taste.

Its main use is in the production of vinyl chloride which is used to make a variety of plastic and vinyl products including PVC pipes, furniture and automobile upholstery, wall coverings, housewares, and automobile parts.

Does 1,2-Dichloroethane have any additional names?

Ethylene Dichloride

What are the known health effects?

Nervous system disorders, liver and kidney diseases, and lung effects have been reported in humans ingesting or inhaling large amounts of 1,2-dichloroethane. Some people who drink water containing 1,2-dichloroethane in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

How does exposure occur?

The general population may be exposed to 1,2-dichloroethane by breathing air or drinking water that contains 1,2-dichloroethane. People who work or live near a factory where 1,2-dichloroethane is used, may be exposed to higher than usual levels.

The general population is not likely to be exposed to large amounts of 1,2-dichloroethane. In the past, it was used in small amounts in household products such as cleaning agents, pesticides, and wallpaper and carpet glue. Risk of exposure from this source could be eliminated if these older products were immediately discarded.

Is this contaminant regulated?

Yes, and water supplied to Mount Laurel MUA customers is in compliance with NJDEP and USEPA standards. The maximum concentration of 1,2-Dichloroethane permitted in drinking water is 2 ppb; 1,2-Dichloroethane is not currently detected in water supplied to MLTMUA customers.

How can I reduce exposure?

1,2-Dichloroethane can be removed from drinking water by granulated activated carbon filtration.

Additional information regarding 1,2 Dichloroethane, including the information referenced, can be found at:

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts38.pdf>

https://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/iris/iris_documents/documents/subst/0149_summary.pdf