

1,2-Dibromo-3-Chloropropane (C₃H₅Br₂Cl)

What is 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane?

DBCP is a manufactured chemical and is not found naturally in the environment. It is a colorless liquid with a sharp smell. It can be tasted in water at very low concentrations.

Some industries use it to make another chemical that is used to make materials that resist burning. Large amounts of DBCP were used in the past on certain farms to kill pests that harmed crops. Farmers in all states other than Hawaii stopped using it in 1979. Hawaii stopped using it in 1985.

Does 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane have any additional names?

Dibromochloropropane; DBCP

What are the known health effects?

Some people who drink water containing DBCP in excess of the MCL over many years could experience reproductive problems and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

How does exposure occur?

Exposure can occur by drinking water or eating food that is contaminated with DBCP, breathing air or touching soil at or near agricultural areas where DBCP was used in the past, or breathing air at hazardous waste sites where improper disposal methods were used.

You can reduce exposure to DBCP by not ingesting contaminated water and food. Discourage children from playing in dirt near hazardous waste sites, and encourage children to wash their hands after playing outside and before eating.

Is this contaminant regulated?

Yes, and water supplied to Mount Laurel MUA customers is in compliance with USEPA and NJDEP requirements. The maximum concentration of 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane permitted in drinking water is 0.2 ppb; 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane is not currently detected in water supplied to MLTMUA customers.

How can I reduce exposure?

1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane in drinking water can be removed at point of use by granular activated carbon filtration.

Additional information regarding 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane, including the information referenced, can be found at:

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-09/documents/1-2-dibromo-3-chloropropane.pdf>
<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp36.pdf>