

2,4,5-TP (Silvex)

What is 2,4,5-TP (Silvex)?

2,4,5-TP is a white organic powder with little odor. Until Silvex was banned in 1985, the greatest use of 2,4,5-TP was as a post emergence herbicide for control of woody plants and broadleaf herbaceous weeds in rice and bluegrass turf, in sugarcane, in rangeland improvement programs, and on lawns. Aquatic uses included control of weeds in ditches and riverbanks, on floodways, along canals, reservoirs, streams, and along southern waterways.

Does 2,4,5-TP (Silvex) have any additional names?

(2,4,5-Trichlorophenoxy) propionic acid, Fenoprop

What are the known health effects?

Some people who drink water containing silvex in excess of the MCL over many years could experience liver problems.

How does exposure occur?

The major source of 2,4,5-TP in drinking water is residue of the banned herbicide. If released to water, silvex will biodegrade slowly and strongly adsorb to sediment, where slow biodegradation will occur.

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 2,4,5-TP (Silvex) permitted in drinking water is 50 ppb; 2,4,5-TP (Silvex) is not currently detected in water supplied MLTMUA customers.

How can I reduce exposure?

2,4,5-TP (Silvex) in drinking water can be removed at point of use by granular activated carbon filtration.

Additional information regarding 2,4,5-TP (Silvex), including the information referenced, can be found at:

<https://archive.epa.gov/water/archive/web/pdf/archived-technical-fact-sheet-on-2-4-5-tp.pdf>

<https://www.nj.gov/health/eoh/rtkweb/documents/fs/1896.pdf>