

Antimony (Sb)

What is Antimony?

Antimony is a silvery-white metal that is found in the earth's crust. In the environment, antimony metal is found combined with other substances to form antimony compounds that can be found in ores. Antimony can exist in two chemical states called trivalent or pentavalent.

Does Antimony have any additional names?

Stibium is an outdated name and where the chemical symbol Sb came from.

What are the known health effects?

Antimony can have beneficial effects when used for medical reasons. It has been used as a medicine to treat people infected with certain types of parasites. Some side effects have been reported, including heart problems, nausea and vomiting, and muscle and joint pain.

How does exposure occur?

Because antimony is found naturally in the environment, you are exposed to very low levels of it every day, mostly in food and drinking water. You can also be exposed to very low levels of antimony in air. Drinking water from some plastic water bottles may contain higher levels of antimony, but these levels are not known to cause health effects.

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 Antimony permitted in drinking water is 6 ppb; water supplied by the MLTMUA system has not reported any detections of Antimony.

How can I reduce exposure?

Antimony in drinking water can be removed at point of use by reverse osmosis and distillation.

Additional information regarding Antimony, including the information referenced, can be found at:

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts23.pdf>

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp23.pdf>