

Atrazine(C₈H₁₄ClN₅)

What is Atrazine?

Atrazine is an herbicide that does not occur naturally. Pure atrazine is an odorless, white powder that is not very volatile, reactive, or flammable and that will dissolve in water.

It is used to kill weeds, primarily on farms, but has also been used on highways and railroad rights-of-way. The EPA now restricts how atrazine can be used and applied; only trained people are allowed to spray it.

Atrazine enters the environment primarily through spraying on farm crops. It is taken up by plants growing in soil. It can wash from soil into streams or groundwater where it can stay for a long time.

Does Atrazine have any additional names?

1-Chloro-3-ethylamino-5-isopropylamino-2,4,6-triazine

What are the known health effects?

Some people who drink water containing atrazine in excess of the MCL over many years could experience problems with their cardiovascular system or reproductive difficulties.

How does exposure occur?

Most people are not exposed to atrazine on a regular basis. It is rarely found in food samples; when found, it is only at very low levels. People may be exposed to it by digging in dirt that contains atrazine. Individuals may also be exposed by drinking water from wells that are contaminated with the herbicide.

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 Atrazine permitted in drinking water is 3 ppb; water supplied by the MLTMUA system has not reported any detections of Atrazine.

How can I reduce exposure?

Atrazine in drinking water can be removed at point of use by granular activated carbon filtration.

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

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/ToxProfiles/tp153.pdf>

<https://www.epa.gov/ingredients-used-pesticide-products/atrazine>