

Chlordane(C₁₀H₁₆Cl₈)

What is Chlordane?

Chlordane is a manufactured chemical that was used as a pesticide in the United States from 1948 to 1988. It does not occur naturally in the environment. It is a thick liquid whose color ranges from colorless to amber. Chlordane has a mild, irritating smell.

Because of concern about damage to the environment and harm to human health, the USEPA banned all uses of chlordane in 1983 except to control termites. In 1988, the EPA banned all uses.

Chlordane entered the environment when it was used as a pesticide. It sticks strongly to soil particles at the surface and is not likely to enter groundwater. It can stay in the soil for over 20 years. It breaks down very slowly and does not dissolve easily in water. Chlordane builds up the tissues of fish, birds, and mammals.

Does Chlordane have any additional names?

Octachlor, Velsicol 1068, Octachlorohexahydromethanoindene

What are the known health effects?

Some people who drink water containing chlordane in excess of the MCL over many years could experience problems with their liver or nervous system and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

How does exposure occur?

Exposure may occur by eating crops grown in soil that contains chlordane, by eating fish or shellfish caught in water that is contaminated by chlordane, by breathing air or touching soil near homes treated for termites with chlordane, or by breathing air or by touching soil near waste sites of landfills.

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 Chlordane permitted in drinking water is .5 ppb; water supplied by the MLTMUA system has not reported any detections of Chlordane.

How can I reduce exposure?

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

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

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/ToxProfiles/tp31.pdf>

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-09/documents/chlordane.pdf>