

Dichloromethane (CH₂Cl₂)

What is Dichloromethane?

Dichloromethane is a colorless liquid with a mild, sweet odor. It does not occur naturally in the environment. It is used as an industrial solvent and as a paint stripper. It may also be found in some aerosol products and is used in the manufacture of photographic film.

Dichloromethane has also been used in food-extraction processes such as the decaffeination of coffee. It is also used as a post-harvest fumigant on foods such as strawberries and grains.

Does Dichloromethane have any additional names?

Methylene Chloride

What are the known health effects?

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

How does exposure occur?

Dichloromethane is mainly released to the environment in air. It does not easily dissolve in water, but small amounts may be found in drinking water. The major source of dichloromethane in drinking water is discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories.

Is this contaminant regulated?

Yes, and water supplied to customers of Mount Laurel MUA is in compliance with USEPA and NJDEP requirements. The maximum concentration of Dichloromethane permitted in drinking water is 3 ppb; water supplied to MLTMUA customers has not detected Dichloromethane.

How can I reduce exposure?

Dichloromethane can be removed from drinking water through granulated activated carbon filtration.

Additional information for Dichloromethane, including the information referenced, can be found at:

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

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts14.pdf>