

Glyphosate(C₃H₈NO₅P)

What is Glyphosate?

Glyphosate is the active ingredient in weed killer products such as RoundUp. Glyphosate products are one of the most widely used weed killers worldwide in farms and in home gardens and lawns. Plants can absorb glyphosate through their leaves. It sticks tightly to soil but is quickly broken down by bacteria. Some glyphosate may stay in the air for a short time when it is being sprayed on plants, but it does not normally enter air from the soil. It does not normally enter water unless it is sprayed onto water surfaces. It does not build up in the food chain.

Does Glyphosate have any additional names?

RoundUp, Rodeo, Accord, Glyphomate

What are the known health effects?

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

How does exposure occur?

Glyphosate may get onto unprotected skin and eyes when it is sprayed. You may breathe it while you spray onto plants. You may be exposed to very small amounts from food.

You can reduce your exposure to glyphosate by wearing protective clothing and eyewear while using it. Do not stand in the spray or let it drift on you. Do not let the chemical stay on your skin or get in your eyes. Always wash your hands after applying any weed killer. Do not eat, drink, or smoke while applying weed killer. Do not let children or pets play on or touch lawns or gardens after weed killer is applied until 24 hours has passed.

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 Glyphosate permitted in drinking water is 700 ppb; water supplied by the MLTMUA system has not reported any detections of Glyphosate.

How can I reduce exposure?

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

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

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts214.pdf>

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