

Naphthalene (C₁₀H₈)

What is Naphthalene?

Naphthalene is a white solid that evaporates quickly. It has a strong, but not unpleasant smell. The major commercial use of naphthalene is in the manufacture of PVC plastics. Its major consumer use is in moth repellents and toilet deodorant blocks.

Does Naphthalene have any additional names?

White tar, camphor tar, tar camphor, naphthalin, naphthaline, antimite, albocarbon, hexalene, mothballs, moth flakes

What are the known health effects?

People have developed headaches, nausea, dizziness, and/or vomiting after being exposed to naphthalene vapors.

Animal studies have suggested that naphthalene can cause cancer and the World Health Organization (WHO) has concluded that it is possibly carcinogenic to humans.

How does exposure occur?

You can be exposed to naphthalene if you breathe it in, get it on your skin, or if you accidentally eat or drink something containing it.

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 Naphthalene permitted in drinking water is 300 ppb; water supplied by the MLTMUA system has not reported any detections of Naphthalene.

How can I reduce exposure?

Naphthalene in drinking water can be removed at point of use by granular activated carbon and reverse osmosis filtration.

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

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp67.pdf>

<http://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/naphgen.html>