

Picloram (C₆H₃Cl₃N₂O₂)

What is Picloram?

Picloram, a synthetic organic chemical, is a crystalline organic solid with a chlorine odor. Picloram is used in salt form as a systemic herbicide for controlling annual weeds in crops, and in combination with 2,4-D or 2,4,5-T against perennials on non-croplands for brush control. The major source of picloram in drinking water is herbicide runoff. Picloram does not adhere to soil and has been found in ground water.

Does Picloram have any additional names?

Hexachlorocyclohexane

What are the known health effects?

Some people who drink water containing Picloram well in excess of the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for many years could experience liver problems.

How does exposure occur?

Based on current use patterns, handlers (mixers, loaders, and applicators) may be exposed to Picloram during applications in agriculture and forestry, on pastures and rangelands, along rights-of-way, and in other non-crop areas. Because of Picloram's use patterns, post-application activities and exposure generally are not expected. No Picloram products are registered for homeowner use or have residential applications.

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 Picloram permitted in drinking water is 500 ppb; water supplied by the MLTMUA system has not reported any detections of Combined Picloram.

How can I reduce exposure?

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

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

https://www3.epa.gov/pesticides/chem_search/reg_actions/reregistration/fs_PC-005101_1-Aug-95.pdf

<https://ohiowatersheds.osu.edu/node/1574>

<https://www.nj.gov/health/eoh/rtkweb/documents/fs/1536.pdf>