

Thallium (Ti)

What is Thallium?

Pure thallium is a bluish-white metal that is found in trace amounts in the earth's crust. In the past, thallium was obtained as a by-product from smelting other metals; however, it has not been produced in the United States since 1984.

Does Thallium have any additional names?

No

What are the known health effects?

Exposure to high levels of Thallium can result in harmful health effects. Studies in people who have ingested large amounts of Thallium over a short time have reported vomiting, diarrhea, temporary hair loss, and effects on the nervous system.

How does exposure occur?

Exposure to thallium occurs mainly from eating food. Smoking cigarettes or breathing cigarette smoke is also a source of Thallium exposure. The leaching of Thallium from ore processing operations is the major source of elevated Thallium concentrations in water.

Is this contaminant regulated?

Yes, and water supplied to Mount Laurel MUA customers is in compliance with USEPA requirements. The maximum concentration of Thallium permitted in drinking water is 2 ppb; water supplied by the MLTMUA system has not reported any detections of Thallium.

How can I reduce exposure?

Thallium in drinking water can be removed at point of use by reverse osmosis and distillation.

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

<https://www.freedrinkingwater.com/water-contamination/thallium-contaminants-removal-water.htm>

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts54.pdf>