

# Trichloroethylene (C<sub>2</sub>HCl<sub>3</sub>)

## **What is Trichloroethylene?**

Trichloroethylene is a colorless, volatile liquid which evaporates quickly into the air. It is nonflammable and has a sweet odor.

The two major uses of Trichloroethylene are as a solvent to remove grease from metal parts and as a chemical that is used to make other chemicals, especially the refrigerant, HFC-134a.

Trichloroethylene can be released to air, water, and soil at places where it is produced or used. It is broken down quickly in air but breaks down very slowly in soil and water and is removed mostly through evaporation to air. It is expected to remain in groundwater for a long time since it is not able to evaporate.

## **Does Trichloroethylene have any additional names?**

No

## **What are the known health effects?**

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

## **How does exposure occur?**

Exposure may occur by breathing air contaminated with Trichloroethylene or drinking contaminated water.

## **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 Trichloroethylene permitted in drinking water is 1 ppb; water supplied by the MLTMUA system has not reported any detections of Trichloroethylene.

## **How can I reduce exposure?**

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

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

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

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/ToxProfiles/tp19.pdf>