

Vinyl Chloride (C₂H₃Cl)

What is Vinyl Chloride?

Vinyl chloride is a colorless gas with a mild and sweet odor. It is a manufactured substance that does not occur naturally. It can be formed when other substances such as trichloroethane are broken down. Vinyl chloride is used to make PVC, which is then used to make a variety of plastic products, including pipes, wire and cable coatings, and packaging materials.

Does Vinyl Chloride have any additional names?

Chloroethene, Chloroethylene, Ethylene monochloride

What are the known health effects?

Some people who drink water containing Vinyl Chloride in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

How does exposure occur?

Exposure to Vinyl Chloride may occur by breathing contaminated air near plastics industries, hazardous waste sites, and landfills. You can also be exposed to it in the workplace or drinking water from contaminated wells.

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 Vinyl Chloride permitted in drinking water is 2 ppb; water supplied by the MLTMUA system has not reported any detections of Vinyl Chloride.

How can I reduce exposure?

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

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

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp20.pdf>

<https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-09/documents/vinyl-chloride.pdf>