

# Xylenes (Total) (C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>10</sub>)

## **What is Xylenes (Total)?**

Xylene is a colorless, sweet-smelling liquid that catches on fire easily. It occurs naturally in petroleum and coal tar. Chemical industries produce Xylene from petroleum. It is one of the top 30 chemicals produced in the United States in terms of volume.

## **Does Xylenes (Total) have any additional names?**

No additional names, but there are three forms: meta-xylene, ortho-xylene, and para-xylene (m-, o-, and p-xylene). These different forms are referred to as isomers.

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

Some people who drink water containing Xylenes in excess of the MCL over many years could experience damage to their nervous system.

## **How does exposure occur?**

Exposure to Xylenes can occur through the use of many consumer products such as gasoline, paint varnish, shellac, rust preventatives, and cigarette smoke.

## **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 Xylenes permitted in drinking water is 1000 ppb; water supplied by the MLTMUA system has not reported any detections of Xylenes.

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

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

**Additional information regarding Xylenes (Total), including the information referenced, can be found at:**

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

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp71.pdf>