

# Tetrachloroethylene (C<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>4</sub>)

## **What is Tetrachloroethylene?**

Tetrachloroethylene is a colorless organic liquid with a mild, chloroform-like odor. Its greatest use is in the textile industry, and as a component of aerosol dry-cleaning products.

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

Perchloroethylene, PCE, Perc, Tetrachloroethene, Perchlor

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

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

## **How does exposure occur?**

Exposure may occur in the following ways:

- When you bring clothes from the dry cleaners, they will release small amounts of tetrachloroethylene into the air.
- When you drink water containing tetrachloroethylene, you are exposed to it. You might also be exposed to tetrachloroethylene that is released into the air during showering and bathing.
- Tetrachloroethylene has been found in low levels in some food. You can minimize the risk of exposure by peeling and thoroughly washing fruits and vegetables before cooking.

## **Is this contaminant regulated?**

Yes, water delivered by Mount Laurel MUA is in compliance USEPA and NJDEP. The maximum concentration of tetrachloroethylene permitted by USEPA in drinking water is 5 ppb and 1 ppb by NJDEP standards. Water supplied by the MLTMUA system has a detected maximum of 0.63 ppb.

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

Granulated activated carbon helps to remove tetrachloroethylene from drinking water.

**Additional information for this fact sheet including the information referenced can be found at:**

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts18.pdf>

<https://nj.gov/health/eoh/rtkweb/documents/fs/1810.pdf>