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TCE In Water:

What You Need to Know

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North American drinking water has been in the spotlight the past few years due to researchers finding evidence of microplastics or PFAS (“forever chemicals”) in drinking water. However, a new potential issue that has been making the news lately is TCE (trichloroethylene) in water. TCE is a man-made volatile organic chemical that is generally used as an industrial solvent, used for cleaning, stripping/thinning paint, or degreasing. While this chemical is not a naturally occurring chemical, it has been found in soil and groundwater, and could potentially be in your drinking water.* The EPA (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) has currently called upon banning this harmful material. So, how does this protect your drinking water?

EPA Proposes Trichloroethylene (TCE) Ban

The EPA issued a motion to ban TCE in late 2023, which if approved would prohibit the U.S. from manufacturing, processing, and distributing this harmful chemical, in accordance to Massachusetts Senator, Edward Markey. This motion is not unwarranted due to recent research found by the EPA. They discovered that approximately 18% of U.S. drinking water tested has traces of TCE; this is due to approximately 250 pounds of this carcinogen produced annually.

If TCE in your water is a concern, here are a few key points we’ve highlighted:

TCE Could Be in Your Water

Whether you are on municipal water or well water, there could be traces of TCE in your water supply. Since this contaminant passes through soil, it can collect in groundwater, winding up in your drinking water. Although, this chemical may not be present in your home’s water, based on your location and water source, researchers have deemed it a common drinking water contaminant and regular water treatment may not be enough.

Ingestion Isn’t The Only Concern

If your water has TCE remnants in it, drinking it shouldn’t be your only concern. Anytime you use your tap water, there is potential of TCE vapor from the concentration of this chemical in the air.

There Are Already Guidelines

Even though the EPA’s ban on TCEs hasn’t been implemented yet, certain steps have been appointed by government officials. For example, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulated TCE in drinking water to 5 milligrams per liter (mg/L).

Protecting Your Water from TCE

Regardless of whether you are on municipal or well water, it’s important to know what’s in your water. Even if, or when, the ban on TCE goes into effect, it will take time for the chemical to completely vanish from our water supplies as a result of the intricacy and life span of the contaminant. Therefore it is eminent that we take charge of our home’s water. By having your water tested annually by a professional, they are able to send a water sample to a certified lab to be tested for numerous impurities, such as TCE or VOCs.

Take Charge of Your Water Quality Today

Although we shouldn’t panic over TCE, it’s good to educate ourselves on the subject. To ease your concerns, if your water test results detects the presence of TCE, or any other contaminant, the next step is to consider the water treatment options that are best suited for you and your water needs.

*Contaminants may not be present in your water.

WISHING EVERYONE A SAFE &
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