

Dibromochloropropane (DBCP)

- Legal Limit (MCL): 0.2 ppb or .0002 mg/L^a
- Public Health Goal (PHG): .0017 ppb

Common sources of the contaminant in the Central Valley^b

DBCP was used as a soil fumigant for many years, particularly on grapes and tomatoes. However, the pesticide has been banned in California since the late 1970's. DBCP evaporates relatively quickly in surface water (days - months); but once it enters groundwater, it remains for a very long time (decades), which is why it is still found in drinking water sources today.^c

Possible health effects of short-term exposure^d

- Kidney and liver damage
- Nausea and vomiting
- Headaches, light headedness, weakness
- Damage to male reproductive organs and fertility

Possible health effects of long-term exposure^e

- Kidney damage
- Damage to the male reproductive system, sterility
- Cancer

Sensitive populations^f

Males and people with kidney or liver problems may be most at-risk from high exposures to DBCP.

Pathways of exposure^g

Most exposure is from ingesting contaminated drinking water, but DBCP can also be absorbed by the skin or inhaled when bathing or washing dishes with contaminated water.

Tips for reducing exposure at home^h

- When showering, remember to keep your mouth closed, to avoid accidental exposure.
- Avoid taking showers or washing dishes with hot water.
- Buy bottled water or use an approved treatment device. Some on-tap faucet filters (Brita) do remove DBCP and typically cost \$30 - \$40. A full list of certified filter devices is available at <http://ww2.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/device/Documents/WTDDirectory2008/Section6K.pdf> or by calling the California Dept. of Public Health at (916) 449-5600. Note that DPH updates this list each spring.



This information was originally published in the Community Water Center's *Guide to Community Drinking Water Advocacy*.

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Dibromochloropropane (DBCP) References

- a. This is the same level, just expressed using different units of measurement.
- b. EPA (2006), "Consumer Fact Sheet on: Dibromochloropropane," available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/dwh/c-soc/dibromoc.html> (last visited Nov. 29, 2008).
- c. ATSDR (2007), "Toxicological Profile for 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane, Public Health Statement," available at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/phs36.html> (last visited Nov. 29, 2008).
- d. EPA (2006), "Consumer Fact Sheet on: Dibromochloropropane," available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/dwh/c-soc/dibromoc.html> (last visited Nov. 29, 2008); ATSDR (2007), "Toxicological Profile for 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane, Public Health Statement," available at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/phs36.html> (last visited Nov. 29, 2008).
- e. EPA (2006), "Consumer Fact Sheet on: Dibromochloropropane," available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/dwh/c-soc/dibromoc.html> (last visited Nov. 29, 2008); ATSDR (2007), "Toxicological Profile for 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane, Public Health Statement," available at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/phs36.html> (last visited Nov. 29, 2008).
- f. ATSDR (2007), "Toxicological Profile for 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane, Health Effects," available at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp36-c2.pdf> (last visited Nov. 29, 2008).
- g. OEHHA (1999), "Public Health Goals for 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane (DBCP) in Drinking Water," available at http://www.oehha.ca.gov/water/phg/pdf/dbcp_f.pdf (last visited Nov. 29, 2008); ATSDR (2007), "Toxicological Profile for 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane, Public Health Statement," available at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/phs36.html> (last visited Nov. 29, 2008).
- h. OEHHA (1999), "Public Health Goals for 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane (DBCP) in Drinking Water," available at http://www.oehha.ca.gov/water/phg/pdf/dbcp_f.pdf (last visited Nov. 29, 2008); ATSDR (2007), "Toxicological Profile for 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane, Public Health Statement," available at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/phs36.html> (last visited Nov. 29, 2008).



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