

# Dibromochloropropane (DBCP)

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

## Common sources of the contaminant in the Central Valley<sup>b</sup>

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.<sup>c</sup>

## Possible health effects of short-term exposure<sup>d</sup>

- 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<sup>e</sup>

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

## Sensitive populations<sup>f</sup>

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

## Pathways of exposure<sup>g</sup>

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<sup>h</sup>

- 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://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/certlic/device/Documents/wtd2017/72ManufacturersDevicesValidasof02212017.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/device/Documents/wtd2017/72ManufacturersDevicesValidasof02212017.pdf).



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311 W. Murray Ave. Visalia, CA 93291  
Tel. (559) 733-0219 Fax. (559) 733-8219  
[www.communitywatercenter.org](http://www.communitywatercenter.org)

# DBCP References

- a. This is the same level, just expressed using different units of measurement.
- b. EPA (1995), “Consumer Fact Sheet on: Dibromochloropropane,” available at <https://nepis.epa.gov/Exec/tiff2png.cgi/91022ZI5.PNG?-r+75+-g+7+D%3A%5CZYFILES%5CINDEXDATA%5C95THRU99%5CTIFF%5C00003087%5C91022ZI5.TI> (last visited Feb. 16, 2017).
- c. ATSDR (1992), “Toxicological Profile for 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane, Public Health Statement,” available at <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/ToxProfiles/tp36.pdf> (last visited Feb. 16, 2017).
- d. EPA (1995), “Consumer Fact Sheet on: Dibromochloropropane,” available at <https://nepis.epa.gov/Exec/tiff2png.cgi/91022ZI5.PNG?-r+75+-g+7+D%3A%5CZYFILES%5CINDEXDATA%5C95THRU99%5CTIFF%5C00003087%5C91022ZI5.TI> (last visited Feb. 16, 2017); ATSDR (1992), “Toxicological Profile for 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane, Public Health Statement,” available at <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/ToxProfiles/tp36.pdf> (last visited Feb. 16, 2017).
- e. EPA (1995), “Consumer Fact Sheet on: Dibromochloropropane,” available at <https://nepis.epa.gov/Exec/tiff2png.cgi/91022ZI5.PNG?-r+75+-g+7+D%3A%5CZYFILES%5CINDEXDATA%5C95THRU99%5CTIFF%5C00003087%5C91022ZI5.TI> (last visited Feb. 16, 2017); ATSDR (1992), “Toxicological Profile for 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane, Public Health Statement,” available at <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/ToxProfiles/tp36.pdf> (last visited Feb. 16, 2017).
- f. ATSDR (1992), “Toxicological Profile for 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane, Public Health Statement,” available at <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/ToxProfiles/tp36.pdf> (last visited Feb. 16, 2017).
- g. OEHHA (1999), “Public Health Goals for 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane (DBCP) in Drinking Water,” available at <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/cdc9/8015f3bbfdbdd5fb76efdc232be9c2a8c491.pdf> (last visited Feb. 16, 2017); ATSDR (1992), “Toxicological Profile for 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane, Public Health Statement,” available at <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/ToxProfiles/tp36.pdf> (last visited Feb. 16, 2017).
- h. OEHHA (1999), “Public Health Goals for 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane (DBCP) in Drinking Water,” available at <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/cdc9/8015f3bbfdbdd5fb76efdc232be9c2a8c491.pdf> (last visited Feb. 16, 2017); ATSDR (1992), “Toxicological Profile for 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane, Public Health Statement,” available at <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/ToxProfiles/tp36.pdf> (last visited Feb. 16, 2017).



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