



1,4-Dioxane

If the level of 1,4-dioxane in your water is over **0.35 µg/L**, you should find a different source of water for drinking and preparing foods that take up a lot of water.*

What is 1,4-dioxane?

1,4-dioxane is an organic chemical that is used to make other chemicals.

- ▶ 1,4-dioxane can also be found as a contaminant in some cosmetics, detergents, and shampoos and is a manufacturing byproduct of some common plastics.
- ▶ People can be exposed to 1,4-dioxane from air, food, and water.

Can 1,4-dioxane affect our health?

Animal studies have shown that 1,4-dioxane can cause health effects.

- ▶ No studies among people have evaluated the effect of 1,4-dioxane.
- ▶ However, studies in research animals have shown that swallowing large amounts of 1,4-dioxane for long periods of time can affect the liver and kidneys and may cause cancer.

What can you do to protect your health?

Wisconsin has a recommended groundwater standard of 0.35 micrograms per liter (µg/L) for 1,4-dioxane. If the level of 1,4-dioxane in your drinking water is above this, you should find a way to obtain safe water. Options include:

- ▶ Installing a certified treatment device.
- ▶ Drilling a new well.
- ▶ Connecting to a public water system or community well.

*Examples of foods that take up a lot of water include soup, rice, jello, and oatmeal.

Looking for more information?

- ▶ See the [factsheet](#) by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry for additional health information.
- ▶ Visit the [DHS website](#) for more information on Wisconsin's groundwater standards.

