



Tetrachloroethylene (PCE)

If the level of PCE in your water is over **20 µg/L**, you should find a different source of water for drinking and preparing foods that take up a lot of water.*

What is tetrachloroethylene?

Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) is human-made chemical that does not occur naturally in the environment.

- ▶ Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) is used for dry cleaning, metalworking, textile processing, and fluorocarbons manufacturing.
- ▶ People can be exposed to PCE from air and water.

Can PCE affect our health?

Studies among people and in research animals have shown that PCE can affect health.

- ▶ Short-term exposure to high levels of PCE can affect the liver, kidneys, and nervous system.
- ▶ Long-term exposure to lower levels of PCE can cause changes in mood, memory, attention, reaction time, and vision.

What can you do to protect your health?

Wisconsin has a recommended groundwater standard of 20 micrograms per liter (µg/L) for PCE.

If the level of PCE 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.

