



Health Information

Resources and education on TCE in air

What is TCE?

Trichloroethylene, or TCE, is a human-made chemical with degreasing properties that make it useful in a number of industrial processes and consumer products. Previous electroplating facility operations at the N.W. Mauthe Co. building in Appleton led to contamination of the soil and groundwater. Soil vapor from beneath the building's foundation and indoor air samples were collected from this site in December 2024 and analyzed for TCE.

There is no immediate or long-term risk to your health based on the following sample results and how the building is used. If you are looking to take additional action, you can limit your time spent inside this facility.

Contact DHSEnvHealth@dhs.wisconsin.gov with questions.

What do the sample results show?

- ▶ Samples from beneath the building's foundation had TCE levels above the vapor risk screening level (VRSL).
- ▶ Indoor air samples had TCE levels below the vapor action level (VAL).

*The Department of Natural Resources does not expect the TCE levels to increase over time.

VRSL vs VAL

The VRSL result measures your potential exposure. Though soil vapor samples were above the VRSL, the VAL is a better measure of your true risk to TCE.

The VAL result measures the TCE in the air you could be breathing in. The air you are breathing in at the N.W. Mauthe building is within safe ranges.

Who is most at risk?

TCE impacts the developing fetus. Women who breathe in TCE above the VAL while pregnant may have babies with:



- ▶ Lower birth weights
- ▶ Central nervous system defects
- ▶ Immune system effects

Where can I find more resources?

ATSDR TCE
ToxFAQs



DNR vapor
intrusion website



DHS TCE
website



DHS vapor
intrusion website



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Wisconsin Department of Health Services
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