



# Dacthal and breakdown products

If the levels of dacthal and breakdown products in your water is over **70 µg/L**, you should find a different source of water for drinking and preparing foods that take up a lot of water.\*

## What is dacthal?

Dacthal is a pesticide used to control a variety of weeds.

- ▶ In the environment, dacthal breaks down into monomethyl tetrachloroterephthalic acid (MTP) and then tetrachloroterephthalic acid (TPA).
- ▶ People can be exposed to dacthal and its breakdown products through air, soil, food, and water.

## Can dacthal and its breakdown products affect our health?

Studies in research animals have shown that dacthal can cause health effects.

- ▶ No studies among people exposed have examined the health effects of dacthal or its breakdown products.
- ▶ Studies in research animals have shown that exposure to high levels of dacthal for long periods of time can cause liver, lung, kidney, and thyroid problems and may cause cancer. Studies on MTP and TPA are limited.

## What can you do to protect your health?

Wisconsin has a recommended groundwater standard of **70 micrograms per liter (µg/L)** for dacthal, MTP, and TPA.

If the combined level of these substances in your drinking water is above this value, 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 Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) for additional information on the use of dacthal in Wisconsin.
- ▶ Visit the [DHS website](#) for more information on Wisconsin's groundwater standards.

