



1,1-Dichloroethane

If the level of 1,1-dichloroethane in your water is over **850 µg/L**, you should find a different source of water for drinking and preparing foods that take up a lot of water.*

What is 1,1-dichloroethane?

1,1-Dichloroethane is a volatile organic compound (VOC) that is used to make other chemicals.

- ▶ 1,1-Dichloroethane is a clear liquid that does not exist naturally.
- ▶ Most exposure to 1,1-dichloroethane comes from food but people can also be exposed by breathing air or drinking water that contain 1,1-dichloroethane.

Can 1,1-dichloroethane affect our health?

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

- ▶ No studies among people have evaluated the effects of drinking 1,1-dichloroethane.
- ▶ However, studies in research animals have shown that swallowing large amounts of 1,1-dichloroethane over long periods of time can affect the kidneys and liver, delay development, and may cause cancer.

What can you do to protect your health?

Wisconsin has a groundwater standard of 850 micrograms per liter (µg/L) for 1,1-dichloroethane. If the level of 1,1-dichloroethane 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 more health information on 1,2-dichloroethane.
- ▶ Visit the [DHS website](#) for more information on Wisconsin's groundwater standards.

